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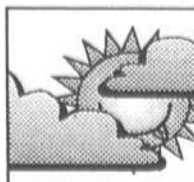
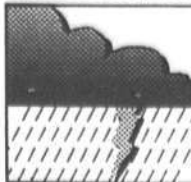
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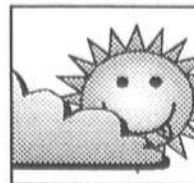
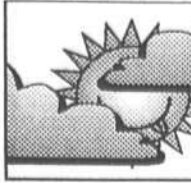
Wed. 30/42

Thur. 35/48



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Sat. 46/52



SECOND INTENTIONAL EXPOSURE

The Liberty Champion

Students spare a few hours, beautify campus **pg.3**

Gibbons says Ireland's been cheated by Brits **pg.5**

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Tuesday, February 20, 1996

Vol. 13, No. 17

Debate team grabs No. 1 slot in NDT

By ANDREW LYONS
News Editor

They just may do it again.

With only two national tournaments remaining, the Liberty debate team is currently ranked No. 1 in the second NDT rankings and is on its way to winning the NDT for the second straight year.

"We've been pretty much cleaning other people's clocks this year," Debate Coach Brett O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell said the debate team finished first last year with only 484 points. This year, the debate team has accumulated 496 points.

This season, the novice, junior varsity and varsity squads have won two tournaments each. The varsity squad also competed in the finals of another tournament and has debated in several semifinals.

"We've been in the top four or at least top eight of every tournament," O'Donnell said.

Although Liberty is No. 1 in the NDT rankings, the team has never won a National Debate Tournament. "It's a matter of performance of your entire squad through the season," O'Donnell said.

"Our varsity team is one of the best 10 varsity teams in the country. Our JV team is coming on and our novices are by far the best novices in the country," O'Donnell explained. "All you have to do is make sure you're doing really well, and we have been this year at all of those tournaments."

Liberty's last tournament success took place at the University of Michigan Feb. 9-11 where the debate team tied for fourth among 91 other teams. Northwestern University, Dartmouth University, Emory

University and Wake Forest University finished ahead of Liberty at the tournament.

According to O'Donnell, the University of Michigan tournament is one of the three "best of the best" tournaments.

The debate team traveled to the Naval Academy, Feb. 1-4. Both the JV and the novice teams won.

According to O'Donnell, eight teams cleared into the elimination rounds and the debate team accumulated more NDT points than any other team.

The debate team will continue to debate if the U.S. should increase its security assistance to certain Middle Eastern countries this weekend at George Washington University. Other upcoming tournaments included the American Debate Association Tournament at LU March 9-11 and the NDT tournament at Wake Forest University March 28-April 2.

Varsity debaters win national tourney bid

For the first time in history, the Liberty Debate team won a first-round bid to the National Debate Tournament. Don Parson, director of the the National Debate Tournament Committee, made the announcement Saturday. Varsity debaters Bill Lawrence and Layla Hinton will travel to Wake Forest University March 28-April 2.

According to Brett O'Donnell, in order to get a first-round bid, your team must submit a bid to the Committee. Out of the 24 bids that were submitted, 16 were selected. The debate team will not know its exact position in the tournament until it arrives at Wake Forest.

O'Donnell said he thinks the varsity debaters will fall in the "10-15" range.

The following is a list of the universities that also won bids to the Wake Forest Tournament:

- Baylor University
- Dartmouth College
- Emory University
- University of Georgia
- University of Iowa
- Northwestern University
- Redlands University
- Wake Forest University
- Wayne State University
- West Georgia College

"This is an impressive list of schools for LU to be accompanied with," O'Donnell concluded.

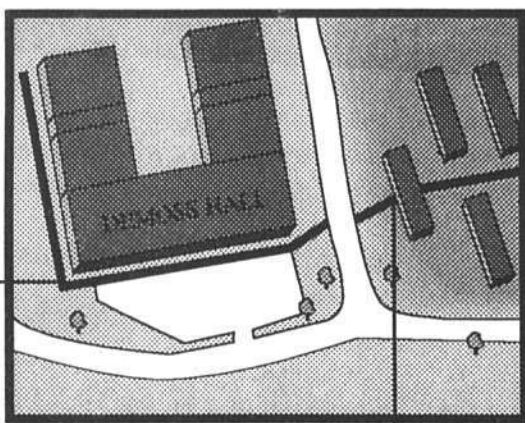
— by Andrew Lyons

SNOW'S DANGER

When deciding which part of campus to clear snow from first, these are the places deemed most dangerous to students:

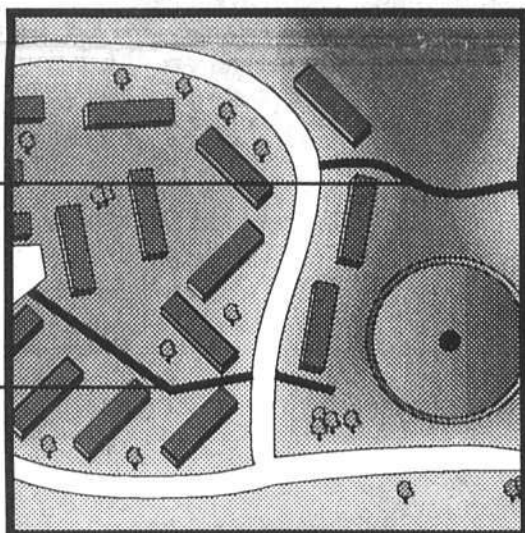
AREA ONE

The sidewalk leading in front and on both sides of DeMoss Hall



AREA TWO

The stairs coming down the hill from Dorm 23 leading to DeMoss Hall



AREA THREE

The stairs between Dorms 5 and 7 behind the Vines Center, leading through the ravine

AREA FOUR

The stairs between Dorms 1, 2 and 3, leading in front of the Vines Center.



KEITH LUDLOW/LIBERTY CHAMPION

Through rain, sleet and snow

By TIMOTHY J. GIBBONS
and KEITH LUDLOW

Randy Johnson had a rough day Friday.

Up at 3 a.m. he called his staff at 4 a.m. and started to work at 5:30. For more than 14 hours he focused on overcoming the snow, slush and ice that struck campus.

A rough day, yes. An unusual one — at least this year — no.

For the groundkeepers — those who take care of Liberty when winter weather hits — days like Friday seem almost commonplace. That's OK, though, Johnson said. The heavy workload has given the

14-member crew a change to grow closer together.

"It's a group of people who enjoy working together," he said. "It's an above average group. Everybody does everything."

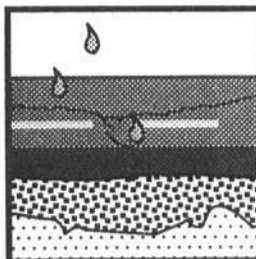
STORM COSTS HIGH

According to the National Weather Service, 51.3 inches of snow have fallen on Lynchburg since the snow season started in December — 8.1 of them this past Friday. It has cost the school more than \$25,000 to take care of it all.

Look at the last big storm, for example — the one that closed

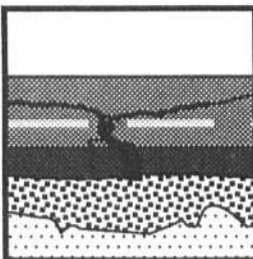
See Snow, Page 4

WINTER'S DESTRUCTION



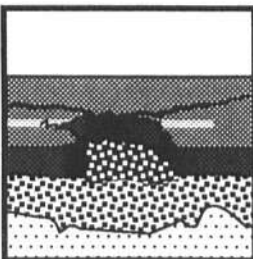
Stage One

Melted snow soaks into the asphalt through cracks in the pavement and freezes overnight.



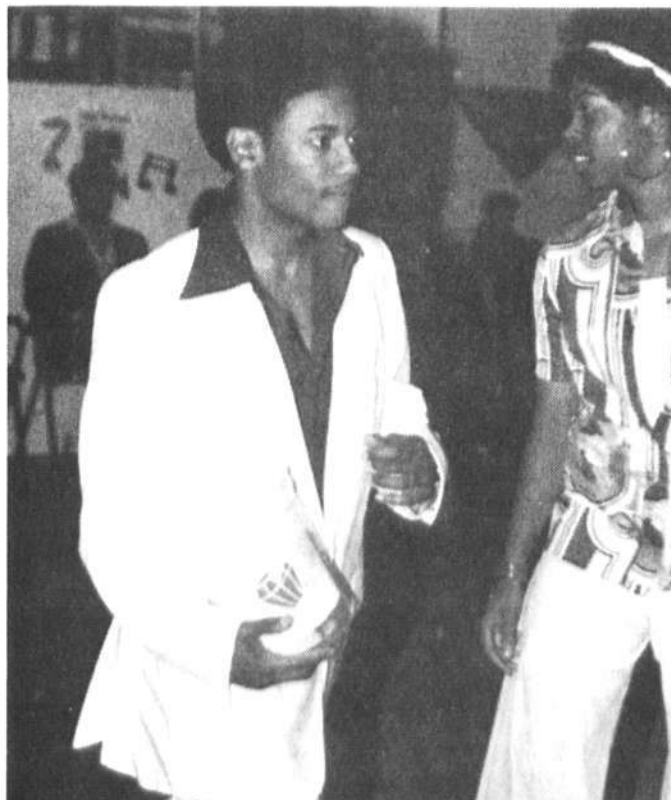
Stage Two

The ice expands as it freezes, forcing the cracks wider and shattering the pavement blacktop.



Stage Three

Cars driving over the damaged pavement harm it further, causing a pothole to form in the road.



DENNIS SULLIVAN/LIBERTY CHAMPION

DY-NO-MITE! — Mark Swift struts his stuff at the MISA '70s party Saturday night.

Students groove in a far-out way

MISA party flashes back to those funky '70s

By CYNTHIA L. TATUM
Champion Reporter

Dressed in an array of 1970s attire, at least 125 Liberty students joined together at David's Place Saturday for a Minority and International Student Affairs sponsored night of '70s celebration.

The decor was that of the '70s with blue, red and green shingles hanging from the doors and the sign "Can You Dig It? — '70s" up on the wall.

The sounds of James Brown played as guys came through the doors with

Afros, butterfly collars, pin-striped bell-bottom suits, stacked shoes and wide-brimmed hats with long feathers on the side.

Sounds of Roberta Flack filled the room while the women paraded in with tight pants that flared into bell-bottoms, scarves hanging from their heads, large hooped earrings and platform shoes.

Students were supposed to pick the best dressed male and female.

Audrey Wilson, dressed in a burgundy plastic leather two-piece suit with a burgundy plastic leather head wrap, cat-eye glasses, black ankle-high boots and black teeth, was named best dressed by the women.

As for the men, "There were so many of them dressed up, we could never come to a solid decision," Ginger Davis, a MISA committee worker, said.

The '70s celebration was not just a place to dress up but to also participate in activities that were popular during

that time period. Games and activities included checkers, spade matches, the limbo, dominoes and the "players' call" — an opportunity given to those "players" in the house to advertise the call they use to get women.

Three Liberty students, Ann Brooks, Felicia Dodson and Regina McFarland, dressed as the Supremes. But they did not stop there. They proceeded on stage to lip sync the Supremes' No. 1 hit single, "Stop in the Name of Love."

Dodson said, "This party is all about having fun while remembering those that came before us. It was not hard finding anything to wear because most of the styles that they were wearing back in the day, we're sporting them now."

Reminiscing back to the television show "Soul

Train," about three times during the party, the group formed a soul train line where everyone was given an opportunity to stroll down the empty aisle and give their impression of the dances they thought were the most popular in the '70s.

Changa Cooper and Mark Swift, who are on the MISA committee, arrived at idea of the '70s celebration and therefore organized it. Cooper said, "It took a lot of hard work, but it was worth it all to see this many students come together without disorderly conduct just to enjoy themselves and to have clean fun."

"It was also a true blessing to see other students other than just blacks. We have these activities in honor of Black History Month but they are not just for blacks, they are for everyone on campus," Cooper concluded.



DAVID DERSHIMER/LIBERTY CHAMPION

IN HONOR OF A SOLDIER — An unknown soldier hoists the flag to half staff.

Black
History
Month

the ear

Late-Night Activities

Friday, Feb. 23, the late-night activities will be skating and bowling.

Off-campus skating will be at Skateland on Graves Mill Road. The cost of \$3.50 includes skates. For more information, call the Student Life Office at 2131.

The cost for unlimited bowling is \$6.25 and shoe rental is free. Use your LU ID to buy tickets at AMF Lynchburg Bowl.

Delays and Closings — In case of inclement weather, the following stations will announce any delays or closings for Liberty University:

Radio:
WRVL 88.3
WVMC C91 (campus station)
WVTF 89 Public Radio

Television:
WSLS TV
WSET TV
WDBJ TV

Black History Month

Below is a list of events for February's Black History Month

Tuesday, Feb. 20: Forum; DH 119, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22: Etiquette Workshop; DH 144, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24: Third Annual "March for Unity," 10 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24: Minority Student Achievement Awards; Hilton Hotel, Lynchburg.

Tuesday, Feb. 27: Forum; DH

114, 7:30 p.m.

"New Horizons" is sponsored by the Minority and International Student Affairs Office.

Career Workshops — The following is a list of workshops taught by Glen Belden, whose career includes work as a corporate management consultant, university administrator, teacher and business owner.

Preparing an effective résumé

Thursday, Feb. 22, and Monday, March 25, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in DH 125.

Presenting yourself well in an interview

Monday, April 1, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in DH 125.

Strategies for getting the job you want

Tuesday, Feb. 27, and Monday, April 8, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in DH 125.

Making wise career decisions

Monday, Feb. 26, and Monday, April 8, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in DH 125.

Understanding your talents in making career decisions

Monday, March 4, and Thursday, March 28, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in DH 125.

Knowing the will of God for your career

Monday, March 18, and Thursday, April 4, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in DH 125.

Convocation Schedule —

Wednesday, Feb. 21: Dr. Falwell

Friday, Feb. 23: Rev. Harry Walls

Monday, Feb. 26: Manuel Rivera.

Hugo presents 'The Mikado'

By CHANNING SCHNEIDER
Champion Reporter

The formalities of 19th-century Japan will be brought to the stage as LU presents Gilbert and Sullivan's famous musical comedy, "The Mikado," on Feb. 22, 23, 24, 29 and March 1 and 2.

According to Dr. John Hugo, director of the play, "The Mikado" will lift the audience out of the winter doldrums and leave them laughing for days to come.

"This is the funniest musical comedy ever written," Hugo commented.

"You just can't stop laughing; it is hysterical. I'm not the type of person who laughs real easily, but this play puts me on the floor," he said.

Hugo said he and the cast members had a great time preparing for

the play.

"This play has been a discovery for our cast. We have discovered the joy of humor, and our goal is to share this discovery with everyone," Hugo said.

"The Mikado" is a musical farce about conflicts between love and death in 19th-century Japan.

The Mikado is the emperor of Japan. His son, Nanki-Poo, has been promised in marriage to an elderly lady. In defiance to his father's wishes, Nanki-Poo runs away and falls desperately in love with a beautiful girl named Yum-Yum in the town of Titipu.

Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is promised in marriage to Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner.

Nanki-Poo decides he must kill himself if he cannot marry Yum-

Yum and so he strikes up a deal with the Lord High Executioner. Yum-Yum can marry Nanki-Poo for a month and then Ko-Ko can kill him and have Yum-Yum for himself.

Around this time, another dramatic twist in the plot begins to take shape. The old woman who was promised to Nanki-Poo, the Emperor's son, in marriage, shows up looking for her betrothed because she wishes desperately to be Empress.

When she discovers Nanki-Poo's plan and all that will unfold, she returns to alert the Mikado and bring him to the small town of Titipu.

"This is where the fun starts,"

Hugo explained. "And all of this craziness continues until it is finally resolved in the end."

"It is an exciting musical, and I

think if the students wait around to get their tickets, the second week will be completely sold out and they will miss the play. Plus, the Big South Conference is also the second week of the show, and I wouldn't want there to be a conflict of interest between the two."

There will be six performances of the musical, beginning Thursday, Feb. 22.

Tickets cost \$5.50, and the show begins each night at 7:30 in the Lloyd Auditorium.



Hugo

Bloodmobile drops below goal

By STEPHANIE RADAKER
Champion Reporter

Though love was in the air, students chose not to give from the heart last week when the American Red Cross Bloodmobile rolled onto campus for Wednesday, Feb. 14, and Thursday, Feb. 15.

Donations were much lower than past visits. During past blood drives, the American Red Cross collected an average of 200 pints of blood from LU students, approximately 100 pints per day. This time only 62 pints were collected on Wednesday and 97 pints on Thursday.

Ann Wallace, director of Blood Services, was disappointed about the low turnout for the drive.

"It was really surprising," Wallace said. "We are usually bombarded with donors here."

Wallace said Valentine's Day plans may have been a factor in Wednesday's low level of participation. Wallace also said that blood collections are usually down during the winter months due to colds and the flu.

While many students did not give blood, there were a few nervous souls who did donate for the first time.

Freshman Denart Ifurung was one who had never given blood. When asked about the experience, he said, "I feel pretty good about myself. I've helped people out, and the extra credit feels pretty good too!"

A few students reached a goal of

distinction in the Red Cross. "I got a pretty little pin from the Red Cross," Junior Tasha Wilkins said.

Wilkins, who received her pin for donating a total of eight pints of blood, was proud of her accomplishment. "I think it's pretty neat. I'll wear it with pride!" she said.

Junior Stephen Welch said he has only missed one bloodmobile since his freshman year, and he, too, received a pin. "Jesus gave his blood for us; we should give blood to others," Welch said.

Several students expressed the idea that if they are healthy enough to give blood and save lives in the process, they feel obligated to do so.

However, Scott Browning took a different approach. "Anyone who is

as accident-prone as I am will need it," he said.

Although Browning says most of his accidents don't result in bleeding, he realizes someone will someday be in an accident and need the blood he donated.

Freshman Tene Williams advised people who are too afraid of needles to give blood, too. "Just think about the little child in the hospital who might die without your blood. To give someone a chance at life is worth a little pain," Williams said.

LU students will have another chance in April to show their love for others by donating blood. According to sophomore Tara Frazier, "You'll feel awesome when you're done!"

Clarifications

The photographer who took pictures from Habitat for Humanity which ran in last week's paper was incorrectly identified.

The pictures were provided to the Champion by Jonathan Falwell.

The article on Danny Lovett's appointment as dean of the Seminary did not include his full credentials. Lovett has a Master's of Divinity from Luther Rice, a Doctor of Divinity from North Florida Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Reformed Theological Seminary.

KERR TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE

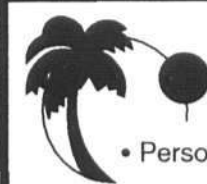
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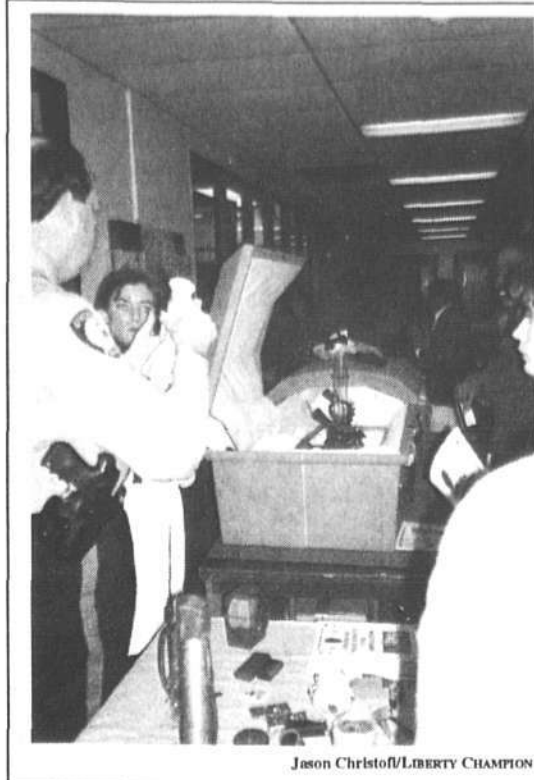
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JUST SAY NO! — Captain Reynolds of the Lynchburg Police Department, in joint effort with the LU Nursing Department and Student Life, explains the dangers of marijuana usage Monday in the DeMoss Hall Atrium.

The purpose of the table was to present a better awareness on the prevention of drugs and alcohol use.

Jason Christoff/LIBERTY CHAMPION

Prof launches campaign for Lynchburg council

By TIMOTHY J. GIBBONS
Editor in Chief

Lynchburg is ready for the Reagan revolution, believes LU government professor Kevin Clauson — and he believes he's the one to bring it here. "We need to get serious about lowering real estate tax and personal property tax," he said. "That why I'm bringing the Reagan revolution to Lynchburg."

Clauson hopes to bring the revolution — which he defines as lower taxes, cheaper government and less regulation — by winning a spot on the Lynchburg city council. The professor announced Friday that he will seek the Republican nomination for the council's at-large seat.

The 40-year-old attorney has never held elected office before, although he ran for a city council seat while he was in college in West Virginia.

The post for which he is now running represents the city of Lynchburg, instead of just representing wards, as do the other seats. The position is presently held by Dr. Robert Vogel, who is seeking a seat representing his home ward.

Vogel was appointed to the slot after Preston Bryant resigned to become a state delegate.

Clauson said his philosophical background will be his greatest strength in seeking the post.

"One of the strengths that I will bring is a comprehensive philosophy of local government," Clauson said. "A lot of people that go on city

council have good ideas but don't have a philosophy of government."

A philosophical background is important, Clauson said, because of the wide variety of people the position represents.

"I think if you are going to represent the whole city, you are going to have to have something complete," he said.

The professor said his years of teaching at Liberty will help him if he wins the seat. "I've been in academia primarily for the last 15 years. In that kind of an atmosphere you pick up a lot of ideas and read a lot of studies."

Liberty students are invited to get involved in the campaign, Clauson said, but there isn't much they can do right now. "Students from Liberty will certainly play a valuable role," Clauson said. "We have to get nominated first."

Clauson's goal is to make Lynchburg a city to which people want to come.

"Lynchburg is losing people — and it's not gaining people either," he said.

The professor said he does not anticipate any Democratic opponents. No other Republicans have officially declared an intention to seek the nomination.

— Giles Hobart contributed to this article.

BHM cleans up, shows off

Hundreds attend annual talent show

By CYNTHIA L. TATUM
Champion Reporter

Two hundred students gathered in the David's Place Multi-Purpose Room Thursday to take part in Liberty University's annual talent show, sponsored by the Minority and International Student Affairs Office.

Though not the first talent show that has taken place on campus, this one was unlike the others in several respects.

"This year's talent show was much different from the talent shows in the past. The auditions were open to LU students as well as the community," Minority and International Student Affairs Office representative Ginger Davis said.

"Also, this year's talent show had judges as well as prizes given to the first-, second- and third-place winners," Davis said.

Changa Cooper, also a representative from the Minority & International Affairs Office, observed that "this is the first year that we had students of other races participate."

The first-place winners of this year's talent show were "Souls for Christ," a step group.

This group of seven Liberty males entered the stage two by two, dressed all in black. They turned and vocalized at the same time.

"They were the hit of the entire show," Davis commented.

Coming in at second place were two LU students, Brian Jackson and Anthony Samuel, who sang "His Eye is on the Sparrow." Jackson and Samuel, both Liberty University Fellowship Gospel Choir members, sang this tune while the crowd rooted and

applauded vigorously for them.

Trailing behind them in third place in the final standings was Lynchburg resident Tim Jordan, singing "One Last Cry."

The assembly gave Jordan a standing ovation.

For the first time, outsiders such as students from Rustburg High School, Heritage High School and a Lynchburg resident were also participants.

Some Liberty University alumni were also present at this annual event. "When I was a student at Liberty in '88, they did not have activities like this for us."

Liberty has come such a long way and my heart is truly blessed to see that they are exposing the entire campus to many types of talent," Monica Davis, an alumni of LU, said.

The students jumped, cheered and applauded as each act came to an end.

Kimberly Thompson, a junior

at L.U.

said, "I

never

knew the

kind of

ability that

some stu-

dents pos-

sess. I am

usually a

very calm

person,

but the acts

were so great

I found

myself cheer-

ing just as loud

as everyone

else."

Liberty student

Corey Brooks,

commented, "It

was nice to see

this event bring

all minorities

and other stu-

dents together

for one focus,

which is Christ."

Though the talent

show was one

of the wide variety

of activities

organized by the

Minority and

International Student

Affairs office

in honor of Black

History Month,

Cooper said, "It

is not to single

out just blacks

or minorities. All

activities are

open to everyone."



Students lend their time to tidy up campus during clean-up day

By MAINA MWAURA
Champion Reporter

Forty students cleaned up the grounds during Thursday's Campus Clean-Up.

The activity was sponsored by the International and Minority Student Affairs Office as one of the activities honoring Black History Month.

"Turnout this year has been pretty good. We started out with 11; now we have 40 people," said Greg Dowell, dean of International and Minority Student Affairs. Throughout the day, he took to recruiting when he saw walking back to their dorms or around campus.

Freshman Stephen Headley, one of the student recruits, thought the project was a good idea. "The campus looks much

better. It is making a big difference," he said.

Dowell said the purpose behind the clean-up day was "trying to build on our future by service and love for each other."

Dowell further explained, "The purpose is to look back into Black History Month. African Americans have had a lot to do with America through giving of their time through service."

Vernita Jones, coordinator of Minority Student Affairs, said, "We do so many things for entertainment. This is just one of those things for a Christian service to show how much we care about Liberty."

Student Government Association Vice President Craig Long was inspired to join in the event when he saw Dowell's picture in the Liberty Champion last year.

When this year's clean-up day came along, Long said he had decided that he wanted to take part in it. "It's a good thing to clean up the campus," he said.

Sophomore Ashonda Berry said, "People don't realize that trash accumulates. We should take more pride in our campus."

Dean of Men Dane Emerick said, "We just want to say this is the Lord's campus. We just want to keep it clean."



Matt Cuda/LIBERTY CHAMPION

DEMONSTRATING SOME PRIDE — Students pick up trash Thursday during the Campus clean-up sponsored by the Minority and International Student Affairs Office.

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London bomb kills 2

LONDON — Two people were killed and 100 wounded when a bomb exploded in the Docklands area of East London on Friday. The bomb was planted in an underground parking lot next to the largest office complex in London.

Authorities are assuming that terrorists from Northern Ireland are responsible for the blast and are taking precautions in case of another attack. In addition, train stations

were closed on Tuesday because of bomb threats.

All of the Wednesday trains were delayed. Trains in and out of Manchester were delayed for more than three hours because of a car parked out of place.

The car had Irish plates, but no tax certificate displayed. The bomb squad that was called in finally blew up the car.

They realized afterward that the car had not been a threat

after all.

England has been in conflict with Northern Ireland since the Irish Free State was formed in 1921.

Although a cease-fire agreement was signed in August 1994, England's response to the attack will be to send 500 more troops to assist the 16,000 already in Northern Ireland.

—Gregory Morris



World News

Trains collide during winter storm; 11 die

SILVER SPRING Md. — Eleven people were killed and at least 36 injured when an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland Rail Commuter train collided north of the D.C. area during the heavy snowstorm on Friday afternoon.

Denise Fox, a spokeswoman for the Montgomery County Fire Department, said that six people were found trapped in a train car and died due to trauma and fire. Two of the victims were carried to Suburban Hospital because of

serious trauma injuries.

Montgomery County Fire Department officials said at least three dozen were injured, but some of the more seriously injured were still aboard the train shortly before 7 p.m.

While on a run from Washington to Chicago, the Capitol Limited collided with the Washington-bound Maryland Rail Commuter train around 5:45 p.m. in Silver Spring, Md., a Montgomery County, Md., police spokeswoman said.

The Capitol Limited, carrying 175 passengers and crew, consisted of two locomotives, two lounge cars, two sleeping cars, two passenger coaches and seven baggage cars.

The locomotives and four of the baggage cars were believed to have stayed upright on the tracks, Amtrak said.

After the crash, one of the locomotives was on fire, while others were jackknifed on the rails.

—Cynthia L. Tatum

Snow cripples campus

Continued from page 1

campus on Friday, Feb. 2:

•It took 736 man hours to transform the grounds from a winter wonderland to a place that was safe to walk.

•The cost of fuel used in Liberty's snow-removal vehicles exceeded \$500.

•Road and sidewalk salt cost about \$4,000.

The large expenditure of supplies has left Liberty's stock of shovels, chemicals and other equipment somewhat depleted.

"We're almost out of road salt," Johnson said. "This is the first year we've used this much in five or six years."

Liberty has used about 150 tons of road salt, as well as 300 tons of sidewalk salt since the snow season began. The school is now having trouble replenishing.

Salt supplies are low all over, Johnson said. Their supplier sells to the state and local government before selling to the public.

"We were expecting 50 tons of salt (Friday) but now it looks like we won't get it until Tuesday," Johnson said.

NEW EQUIPMENT EXPECTED

The crew is also expecting a variety of new equipment, including another plow truck and tractor.

Right now the grounds crew is working with three pickup trucks equipped with snow plows and a dump truck used to spread road salt and gravel. They also have a small tractor plow used on sidewalks and a large snow blower. The blower can only be used on heavier snowfalls, Johnson said.

"We have some good equipment, but it's old," Johnson said. Several pieces of equipment are eight years old, with one truck being 13.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SNOWMEN

The equipment and the workers hit campus early Friday morning. While students were still nestled snug in their bed, the crew began plowing, shoveling and salting.

"We really try to help the students with this. We treat snow situations as an emergency," Johnson said. "We're dealing with the safety of others."

The school's plan for dealing with heavy snowfall is outlined in a Snow Emergency Response Plan — a plan that Johnson said is simply used as a starting point.

"Snow Removal Plans are a neat thing to have but mostly sit on the shelf," he said.

In practice, the workers start clearing the roads first and then attack the stairs, which Johnson said is probably the most hazardous area for students. They try to have the sidewalks clear before the campus starts stirring.

"One problem with snowfall is people get out and pack it down," he said.

By 10 a.m. Friday — when students began streaming into the Vines Center for convocation — Johnson's crew had already been working six hours — and the end wasn't in sight. The workers ended around 6 p.m., having worked a 14-hour day.

"We work until we're done," Johnson said. "The job is not done until things are relatively safe — and then we start cleanup."

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OPINION

The Liberty Champion

The Official Newspaper of Liberty University
Established 1983

... Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty. II Corinthians 3:17

The Champion staff doesn't back views in Liberty Forum

In general, people don't like to be called freaks. Therefore, the *Liberty Champion*, to the best of our knowledge, has never referred to anyone that way.

When S. Daniel Kidder utilized that appellation in his recent letter to the editor, however, there were quite a few people who blamed the *Champion*. "How could you publish such a letter?" one reader asked.

"I am angry that the *Champion* would even give place to such a meaningless and hate-filled editorial," proclaimed another.

Such a view, while perhaps understandable, is wholly misguided. The position of the *Champion* on letters to the editor is clear; just read the masthead: "Letters appearing in the Liberty Forum do not necessarily represent the views of the *Champion's* editorial board or Liberty University.

"Also, all articles except editorials bear the endorsement of the author, solely."

Simply put, the *Champion* does not stand behind Kidder — or behind Jesse Keenan, Shawn Light, Bradley Stover or anyone else who uses the Forum to communicate his views.

Yes, we review letters for tastelessness and libel.

No, we will not print anything that runs violently contrary to Liberty's mission statement.

We don't, however, refuse to run letters that we disagree with. We don't rebut letters. We don't try to argue with those who write in to us.

The *Champion* welcomes letters and appreciates the students who take the time to write them. We spend many hours each week writing articles for you to read. The letters let us know someone is out there.

We don't expect to agree with all of our readers — nor do we expect them to agree with us. The writing in the Opinion section — columns, editorials, letters — is designed to make readers think. If we have done so, then we have done our job.

Hey kids, get tickets now — the Big South is almost here

If you've been to an LU men's basketball game lately, then you know why we're excited.

Not only are the Flames winning big, but they are also on the way to their second Big Dance. They just have one more hurdle to clear before LU's March Madness begins — and that's the Big South Tournament.

The tournament is being held in our own Vines Center, Feb. 29-March 2, and LU students can purchase individual game tickets for only \$3.

So make plans now to cheer the Flames on to another Big South Tournament Championship.

There's no excuse good enough to miss this.

Passage of the week ...

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13).



Men's ice skating: a valid reason for reverse sexism?

As a veteran student of this evangelical, yet exciting, institution, I have a confession to make.

I may be guilty of (gasp) occasional reverse sexism.

During my Liberty tour of duty, I have participated in classes and been in conversations with male students of our academic community whose ideas are extremely outdated — borderline archaic.

In the course of discussion, it becomes apparent that some of these eventual husbands-to-be have twisted the traditional "man is the head of the household" view. As a result, they are using this paradigm as an excuse to mask their feelings of male superiority.

Usually, when these misguided souls open their mouths to expound their fallacious wisdom, my first inclination is to cut them off with some pointedly sarcastic remark (or to hit them in the back of the head with the heaviest textbook within reach).

However, I have thought considerably about the gender gap within our community and the beating that males take for chauvinism. And, like the Psalmist David, I have examined myself to see if I am not also guilty of the same fault.

It gives me no pride to admit to you that if this were a court of law, and I were the sole defendant, then I would be sentenced to a life behind bars.

You see, I don't care what talents men have or what they are capable of accomplishing. In my book, there are certain things that men just should not do.

So on behalf of gender unity (and to ease my guilty conscience), I offer a once-in-a-lifetime compromise to my male counterparts.

We girls will give up our quest for playing time on the football field if you boys promise to remove yourselves from individual figure skating competition.

I know I'm being sexist here, but I really can't understand why a man would want to trip and frolic on the ice in skintight pants adorned with rhinestones.

Now the pairs competition, that I could see. There is a significant need for a male skater. After all, someone has to throw the girl into space and hopefully catch her when she lands.

But watching the individual male skaters twirl and spin in the quest for Olympic gold leaves me queasy.

Just like some men would argue that God didn't create women to be presidents of the United States, I don't think God intended for men to earn their livings by dancing gleefully across the ice.

Follow me here. You're almost getting it.

If we let men gain satisfaction from solo figure skating, then what's next — male synchronized swimming?

I'm sorry guys, but I look forward to Olympic competition too much to have it marred by your pointed toes being thrust out of the water in a highly technical aquatic move.

Seriously, I'm not trying to male bash. I'm merely trying to make a point. It gets tiring when people (some females included) give in to the ill-founded idea that women, based on their gender alone, can only please God within the confines of their husband's home. Such views aren't even biblical. Oftentimes they've been accepted as such based on nothing more than tradition.

So the next time you're tempted to malign a woman (or a man for that matter) for being successful in a world that doesn't seem to be right for her or him, then read this column and remember.

If we take a microscopic look at some of our ideas, we may not find ourselves on the side of the right.

We may, instead, find ourselves in the realm of the ridiculous.



MICHELLE FANNIN

Shattered fragments of green

I stood transfixed in DeMoss last semester as the results from Quebec's failed secession vote came in. Here, in modern times, was a country that might be torn asunder.

As I saw this nationalistic love being expressed, the thought of another prideful country came to mind, a country that was split, not by a vote, but by a dictatorial power.

I speak of Ireland.

I speak of an Ireland that is fragmented, an Ireland denied a voice, an Ireland abused by England.

I speak of an Ireland whose warriors — be they freedom fighters or terrorists — laid down their guns for 17 months in an attempt to cultivate peace. I speak of warriors whose overtures of reconciliation were rejected by a nation bent on crushing a people English law and society have treated as sub-human.

History's record is clear. Since England marched into the Emerald Isle more than 700 years ago, Ireland has been a site of war, treachery and destruction. The battleground shifted to the Irish Free State when it was established in 1921. It seemed likely that the Troubles in Ireland would never end.

This changed when militias on both sides settled into an uneasy peace — which was shattered last week by the Irish Republican Army's bombing of a subway station.

The reason? Negotiations with England were stalled. England promised to ignore Ireland until the IRA gave up its arms. The IRA refused, saying it needs the weapons to ensure any equity in the bargaining.

I understand the IRA's refusal to disarm. It is sick of the English telling it what to do.

Remember when you were 13 or 14 and your parents didn't want you to do something? Which had more success: your parents giving commands, or your parents treating you like an adult and making a request?

The request usually worked better for me. It would probably work better with the Irish.

According to the *Cambridge History of Britain*, England has treated the Irish like kids since the 1200s. The Irish are sick of it. Why should they kowtow to England, give into England's requests, bow to England's will? Despite centuries of repression, the Irish have a culture and a heritage equal to England's — they want to be treated as equals.

The Irish have to give up their weapons; the English keep theirs. The Irish have to vacate occupied territory; English troops continue to patrol. The Irish have to stop fighting; the English can keep repressing.

The IRA isn't composed of saints. Pub bombing, murder and wanton destruction are activities I find difficult to justify.

But let us not forget the role of the British in this torrid affair. Let us not forget the blood they have shed, the land they have stolen and the way of life they have spit upon.

Let us not forget the terror they have bred, the pogroms they have instituted, the way of life they have trampled upon.

Or on second thought, let us forget it. Forget the atrocities committed by the British and the Irish. Let the two nations put the past behind them and approach negotiations as equal nations, equally interested in peace.

This is vital if the Troubles are to end. Until England and Ireland put the past behind them, sit down and work toward peace, reconciliation will never come about.



TIMOTHY J. GIBBONS

College students, heed this warning: being money hungry could be tragic

They stole an average of about \$150 from each of you last year, and they're going to do it again this year. In fact, they will steal more than three-quarters of a million dollars from this campus alone in 1996. America loses \$40 billion a year to con artists, and naive college students are prime targets. Have you already lost \$150?

You are surrounded by scams even as you go to class. Sometimes it is just small print on that credit-card deal, promising you debts beyond imagination (with no annual fee). But more often than you realize, it is far worse. Here are some examples of common con games:

You win! An envelope will arrive in the mail, covered with TVs and zeroes, and sometimes not worth the paper it's printed on. Does it have a 900 number on it? Do they ask for a fat shipping and handling fee? Does the 800 number you have to call mention either of the first two? According to anti-fraud expert Winifred Conkling, "If you have to pay anything for a prize, it's not legitimate."

Get rich quick! This thorny bush has several branches. One common one is the old vitamin and herb cure tactic. It goes like this: if you buy the vitamins for "a mere \$200," you will get a prize on top of the \$600 you stand to make, in turn, convincing the people you sell to. According to Conkling, 500-plus people were recently bilked in one project like this in Nevada.

Another "get-rich-quick" scam is seen occasionally when a phone con man sets up in town, hires innocent people (you and me?) to read scripts, and skates off with the profits when it starts to get hot.

Free trip! Watch for this one as Spring Break gets closer. It's a simple case of small-print magic. That free plane or boat ticket can prove to be bait to cover membership fees, sales pitches and hidden travel costs. More than 4,200 people were hurt by this scam in a recent Wisconsin operation, losing up to \$600 each for their "free" tickets.

Student Aid! Sometimes this deal turns out

to be the close cousin of the Phony Fund-Raiser, where a telemarketer pays a charity, say, \$5,000 to use its name in a phone campaign on which the telemarketer will make \$25,000. Technically, this is legal, but a lousy alternative to searching out your own charity and financial aid. And of course, there is the possibility that the receptionist asking for your credit card number over the phone will never actually send you your information. Money-back guarantee? Tell that to VISA.

College students are ripe for the picking: new with credit cards, hungry for money and uncalled for by a world even more hungry than they are. Prevention is the only certain medicine for those threatened by fraud. Con artists are smart people with a nose for the system, and most cases of fraud never make it to court. If you get burned, you will almost certainly never see your money again.

If you suspect a scam of any type or just want to make sure, call the local (Roanoke) Better Business Bureau at 1-800-533-5501 or the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060. Remember: if the deal seems too good to be true ... it probably is.



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Also, all articles, except editorials, bear the endorsement of the author, solely.

All material submitted becomes the property of the *Liberty Champion*. The *Champion* reserves the right to accept, reject, or edit any letter received, according to the *Champion* stylebook, taste and Liberty University mission statement. The deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Please address all letters to "Editor, the *Champion*" and drop them off in DH 113 or mail to: *Liberty Champion*, Liberty University, Box 20000, Lynchburg, VA 24506-8001.

COMMENTARY

Telecom reform has a doubtful future

By SHANNON BOWDON
Champion Reporter

The new telecommunications bill: it "razes the barriers between phone, cable, and long - distance companies," said David Lynch and Richard Benedetto of *USA Today*.

It's called the "biggest change in communications law since the 1984 breakup of AT&T," by the *Greensboro News and Record*.

The new telecommunications legislation will affect every person in the nation — and not for the better.

Why?

For two basic reasons. One, the bill paves the way for drastic consolidation. It raises the earlier limits of the telecommunications bill of 1934 regarding the number of stations a company can hold.

For example, cable companies were previously allowed only 12 stations that reached no more than 25 percent of an area.

Now, a company can operate an unlimited number of stations that

reach no more than 35 percent of an area.

Large companies are already making plans to buy small, privately-owned companies. Local television and phone companies are following suit. Big companies are even considering consolidating with each other.

Such a change will lead to monopolies and higher prices. And that is where the nation's consumers lose out.

In an editorial in the *Atlanta Journal*, it is said, "The debate on the issue was conducted almost entirely by the industries affected; ordinary people hardly seemed to know or care that it was going on."

Syndicated columnist Lars-Erik Nelson said "Long distance rates may go down, but local rates will probably go up. Cable TV companies can raise their rates." Most people are not even that optimistic

about the future.

The second reason this bill will have a negative effect on Americans is an obscure statement requiring the Federal Communications Commission to set up a board to determine what services Americans should have.

What the government seems to have forgotten is that this bill is intended to deregulate the telecommunications industry. In deregulating the industry, it is, in fact, regulating it again.

Besides, the industry is only comprised of phone companies and local and cable television. Is the government going to decide we don't need one of those services? And which one will be the loser?

To the well-educated and well-read college student, this may all be very clear, but to the college student who catches up on the world as he passes CNN in the



hall, this is very confusing.

There is probably a perfectly sound and wise explanation for the board and its need to decide what we are allowed to have and not allowed to have.

However, the real difficulty is in finding the explanation for said

board. It is nowhere to be found. In following the bill, there is only one reference to it, and no details are given regarding it.

Even more than the apparent uselessness of the board, the word socialism comes to mind. This is one more area that the government

will be in control of.

Do we really want that?

Can we trust what FCC board's will decision?

Only the future will tell.

Watch your local news station for details — if it stays in operation, that is.

The Liberty FORUM

Students react with outrage to Kidder's 'freak' label

Editor:

I write in outraged response to S. Daniel Kidder's critique of the so-called "freaks."

I am angry that the *Champion* would even give place to such a meaningless and hate-filled editorial, but I'm sure that they will make amends for their actions by printing this letter as well.

Regardless of the suit-coat and tie that Shawn Daniel Kidder so proudly sports through DeMoss every day, he is the kind of person who should be banned from Liberty

University.

I have never seen such an outstanding display of superficiality in the name of Christianity and in the interests of preserving the "image" of our college.

I am much more ashamed of his ignorant behavior than of those who choose to dress with ripped clothing and shoelaces tied around their necks.

I happen to know one of those counter-culture people referred to, and he has more heart than Shawn has apparently ever had.

I find Mr. Kidder's view to be the epitome of heart-

lessness: a shallow, unnecessary letter that is far more detrimental to campus life than the actions of those he has so self-righteously accused.

My suggestion to Kidder is to look beyond the appearance of his fellow classmates into his own heart — that is where the real problem lies.

Carrie L. Brigham

Editor:

I am writing in response to S. Daniel Kidder's letter in which he condemned a group of people he labeled "freaks." Apparently, I am the infamous person Daniel referred to who wears the shoelace as a necklace. I find it extremely immature for Daniel to insult me and encourage punishment simply because he does not find my necklace "attractive."

Daniel stated that anyone who wants to look different should go to another college instead of Liberty. Other than perpetuating an incorrect stereotype of what Christians are, what would that achieve? If we reject everyone who does not fit a certain mold we have developed, then we will create an unrealistic, isolated environment. If this continues, Liberty graduates will

have no idea how to function in the real world or be an effective witness for Christ. As Christians, we are supposed to celebrate diversity in the body of Christ. Unity is not achieved through blind conformity. Conformity only leads to rebellion and division. And bluntly, conformity is what Daniel's argument boils down to.

If someone who would be labeled as a "freak" wants to attend a college where Jesus Christ is the focus, why should he be discriminated against? People like me, a so-called "freak," have a unique ministry opportunity. In order to effectively witness to someone, you have to be able to relate to the person in some way. For many of

today's youth, the only way they will listen to the Word of God is through a peer, a "freak." A ministry like this is just as necessary as a preacher or overseas missionary.

For every minister, normal and "freak," an education is essential. So why should one who honestly wants to learn about God be deprived simply because he looks different?

Daniel defined "freak" as someone who would intentionally make himself look bad. Counter-culture does not mean "looking bad." If it does, what standards should "looking good" be measured against? Should we abide by the world's definition of what an attractive person looks like? Of course not! Looking good is not a requirement for being a

Christian. Outward appearances mean nothing to God. The motives of our hearts are what is important. I realize that for some, "standing out" is a matter of going against authority, but to judge someone's faith because of his appearance is legalism.

The world says that everyone should be attractive as it dictates. If looking good means being like the world, then I am proud to be called a freak.

Jesse Keenan

Maclone is wrong — Baltimore football fans are highly offended

Editor:

In Maclone's recent article, "Maverick Football League," he personally attacked and insulted the city of Baltimore. Baltimore fans "would rather wear khakis and polo shirts (I don't own either) than bundle up in eight layers of clothes to watch football."

I suppose he has never even been to a CFL Stallions game in December. For that matter, I suppose he has never been to Baltimore. If he had, then he would know that the people of Baltimore have been dying for an NFL team since we

were (robbed) of ours in 1984.

For somebody coming from a town with no football tradition at all, he talks an awful lot of trash. The Baltimore Colts won Super Bowl V. The last and only time I saw the Patriots in the Super Bowl, their manhood was being taken away in front of what is still to date the largest audience ever to watch the Super Bowl.

There is a list of great Baltimore players and coaches — Don Shula, John Unitas, Ray Berry, Art Donovan, Alan Ameche, Bert Jones. No such list exists in Boston, unless you count Drew Bledsoe and his

grossly overpaid contract.

I suggest to you that Boston is not a football town. How could it be with such a perpetually pathetic team? The next time Maclone accuses a town of not being a football town, I suggest he takes a look at home. The city of Baltimore deserves a team, period.

I know he is frustrated with his sorry team, but he shouldn't take it out on the city of Baltimore (which will, by the way, be looking down its nose at his city, come the end of baseball season).

Bradley R. Stover

Editor:

I am writing in reply to S. Daniel Kidder's whiny letter concerning the "counter culture" rule here at Liberty University.

For the record, I do not fit into the category of personal appearance Kidder has so eloquently dubbed the "freak." It is my opinion that his attitude is more offensive than the exterior of the most unusually dressed person I've seen on this campus. Apparently it hasn't occurred to Kidder that perhaps those he thinks "intentionally look bad" don't, in fact, believe they look bad at all. Rules concerning hair length or beard and sideburn

standards are clearly defined for the interpretation of those with the power to assign reprimands, but the *Liberty Way* states just as clearly that the concept of non-compliant counter culture is determined by the Dean's Council, not S. Daniel Kidder.

I doubt with all sincerity that any of his "freaks" decided to come to Liberty to make us look bad. It is a definite possibility that most of "them" came because of pluses the "other institutions" cannot offer.

I would like to urge Kidder to think about what Jesus thought of the "freaks" of his day. I'm not accusing anyone of being a part of the

counter culture of Christianity (Christianity is actually a counter culture by definition — look it up).

I don't see why we can't accept differences of such minor standards in our modicum. If the Deans wish to decide that green hair or a striped shoestring is an unacceptable expression of style, then let it be; if not, quit complaining.

If you get busted for being in DeMoss out of dress code, you deserve it — you understand that rule. To be completely honest, it's people with your kind of attitude that the citizens of Lynchburg remember far more readily than someone wearing funny

clothes. And, it's your kind of attitude that they judge us all by. If stopping counter-cultural behavior is your goal, then let's not forget to stop being witnesses or sporting our cute little Christian-slogan T-shirts and bumper stickers. Let's remember to deny our Savior and conform to the current culture of this world.

Well, this is one Jesus "freak" who will not deny his Lord, even if the elitism of some helps to close the hearts of those who still don't know him.

Shawn Light

SPEAK

Do you think HIV-positive athletes should be allowed to play professional sports?



"No, there are too many questions regarding this disease that need to be answered."

— Michael Ottinger, Sr.
Chesapeake, Va.



"No, because your opponents will feel very uncomfortable playing and it will affect the game a lot."

— Sharon Fowlkes, Fresh.
Detroit, Mich.



"No, the potential risks to other players seems too great. There is no need to put everyone else at risk."

— Jennifer Cattaneo, Soph.
Quincy, Mass.



"No, they are like a walking time bomb, ready to blow up any time."

— Ammanuel Dessalegn, Soph.
Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

KIRSTIN
SIMPSON

Mysterious disease hits seniors

I've got a strange disease! Not something quick and painless (I'm not that lucky). Instead, this disease will be long and painful.

For those individuals I've frightened into believing my time left on earth is slowly coming to an end, let me clarify. First of all, I do not have some horrible disease like Ebola. My disease is more common and less deadly. It's called Senioritus.

Not found in the dictionary, Senioritus is the disease that hits high school and college seniors in the months before graduation. Senioritus hit me like a ton of bricks mere days after the spring semester started.

Most high-school seniors are given certain privileges that help make the last few months of the school semester easier to bear.

College students, unfortunately, are not so lucky. In fact, they have more to do the last semester than any semester past.

For example, upper-level classes, jobs, extra-curricular activities, graduation checklist, résumés, internships, CLEP tests, job interviews, cap and gown order, graduation announcements and "oops, I need to declare my major" are all on the senior "to-do list."

If in the past I looked at senior students and wondered why they looked like zombies, I wonder no more. Now, I'm the zombie.

One of the symptoms of Senioritus is a total lack of interest in classes. It's not that the classes are boring; there's just too much going on to think clearly.

During the second week of classes, I took my first unexcused absence. Since then, I've missed almost all of my classes once. It's not something I'm proud of, but one thing is for sure: I'm not alone.

The other day in the *Champion* office I was sitting at my computer playing Tetris, a game I have learned to love simply because a person does not have to think to play.

All of a sudden, the senior students in the office started exclaiming about how many classes they've missed. It's amazing. There are probably millions of students like this. I wonder if there's a support group available?

Another symptom of Senioritus is procrastination. Take, for instance, the need to declare a major. This is something I just did this semester. I didn't wait to do this because I hadn't completed my foundational studies; I finished those classes years ago. I just couldn't find the time to walk to the College of General Studies to pick up the needed forms. I know it's located conveniently in DeMoss Hall; however, there were just more important things to do, like playing Tetris.

Then, once I finally got the forms last year, I couldn't find the time to get my adviser to sign them. It's not like I saw her every day. I only saw her every other day when I had her for a class. Besides, my mind was on other things — like becoming Tetris Champion.

Another example of procrastination is writing this column. Usually I have this written by Wednesday night. It is now Saturday morning, and time is running out.

The last symptom is an incredible desire to graduate and be on one's own. Already I have started making plans with a couple of friends to move to D.C. and get an apartment.

"Why D.C.?" you ask. First of all, I don't have a car, which brings me incredible sadness. Anyway, since I didn't win Publisher's Clearing House and can't buy a car yet, I have to wait until I start making big bucks.

Therefore, I need to live somewhere that has metro and bus service like D.C. Also, D.C. is the greatest city, and I want to live there even if I have to work as a bagger in a supermarket.

Well, I could go on about Senioritus but since I've met my word quota for this column, I'll have to sign off. Besides, it's time to play Tetris while I procrastinate on doing my homework.

Life!

Wedding bells will be ringing ...

By TRACEY CLARK
Champion Reporter

Love at first sight — is it only a myth? Not for *Champion* sports editor Rich Maclone and his fiancée, Lyra Woodruff!

The two met when they were riding home at the end of the 1994 spring semester. Neither expected at the time that the 15-hour ride home would completely change the course of their lives.

Instead of reading a book or listening to music, the two used the drive to talk and get to know each other.

"You can learn

a lot about someone in 15 hours,"

Rich said.

Despite the fun

they had, when the trip was over, Rich and Lyra went separate ways. For the next three months, they did not see or talk to each other.

It wasn't until October 29, 1994, that Rich and Lyra had their first date. The original plan was to go to the Liberty Flames football game with a group of mutual friends.

However, unknown to Rich and Lyra, their friends were trying to set them up. When the day arrived, their friends "conveniently" couldn't go. Subsequently, Rich and Lyra had their first date.

"We had a great time at the game, and we decided to see each other the next weekend and then the next weekend and

basically every weekend since," Rich said.

On December 25, 1995, Rich and Lyra not only celebrated Christmas, but they also became engaged.

Rich picked Lyra up at her house Christmas morning, but instead of stopping to have Christmas dinner at his grandparents' house, Rich kept driving through the sidestreets and backroads of Massachusetts. He told Lyra that he wanted to take her somewhere special.

He stopped at a saltwater lagoon on the beach, called the Forty Steps. "The day was perfectly crystal clear with the sun

shining on the ocean and the boats in the water," Lyra said.

There, Rich asked

Lyra to spend the rest of her life with him. How did she respond? "Well, she held me so tight, I felt like she had me in a strangle hold," Rich said. And, of course, she said yes!

Commenting on how he felt in the car on the way to the saltwater lagoon, Rich said, "It's a traumatic experience for a guy; it's really scary!"

For Lyra, the decision to accept Rich's proposal was an easy one. "I knew the first time that I met him that I wanted to see him again," she said. "I had a premonition even though when I first met him I had a boyfriend."

Rich and Lyra plan to get married on June 29, 1997, in Greenville, R.I.

Rich and Lyra



photo courtesy of Rich Maclone

TRIPPING DOWN THE AISLE — Rich Maclone and Lyra Woodruff plan the wedding of their dreams. The two became engaged this past Christmas and plan to marry June 29, 1997.



TO MY PRINCESS, FROM YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR — If Matt Berrens and Amy Wood's engagement was any taste of what's to come, their wedding will certainly be exciting. The couple plans to marry this June.

Many people can only dream of a fairy-tale engagement, but for Amy Wood and Matt Berrens this dream became a reality.

Amy, a South Carolina native, and Matt, a native of California, met during the fall of 1993 on the YouthQuest drama team.

After more than two years of spending time together, Matt decided it was time to propose.

However, Amy had no idea he was thinking along these lines. In fact, Matt, a pastoral major, had plans to

go on to seminary and told Amy that for financial reasons marriage would have to wait until he was finished.

On the weekend of October 27, 1995 Amy and Matt took a trip to Amy's house in South Carolina. Matt's parents were on vacation there and were planning to meet Amy's parents.

As far as Amy knew, the plan for the weekend was for both families to do some sightseeing together in Charleston. Though the day went as planned, Amy did think that Matt's

parents were acting somewhat hyper all day long.

That night, before going to dinner, Matt's family suggested they go outside and take some pictures because it was such a beautiful day. Amy was standing on the porch of her house when she saw a white horse coming down the road toward her.

Noticing the rider stopped to let some children pet the horse, Amy didn't think anything of it. "It was Halloween weekend," she said.

The rider and horse then proceeded down the road to her house. The man on the horse was dressed in a knight costume, but it wasn't until he got really close that she noticed it was Matt.

"Even then, I had no clue that Matt was about to propose," she said. Amy then jokingly asked Matt if he was her "knight in shining armor." He responded yes and got down off his horse and asked Amy to marry him.

After her initial shock, she said yes to his fairy-tale proposal.

How did Amy know that Matt was "the one?"



Matt and Amy

"I prayed about it for a long time. I knew after we were apart the first summer that he was the one for me," she said.

"God gave me such a peace about it. Even though he was so far away, I completely trusted him. That's what made this relationship different than any other relationship I have had in the past."

Why a knight in shining armor?

Well, when they wrote to each other while they were dating, Matt would always write, "To My Princess, From your Knight in Shining Armor."

Amy and Matt plan to get married June 14, 1996, in South Carolina. They plan to honeymoon in California.

John Byrum first met Denys Higgins after a Virginia Tech basketball game. The first moment he saw her he wanted to meet her.

After the game, John saw Denys in her car and saw that her purse strap was caught in the door. Trying to be a gentleman, he took this opportunity to talk to Denys. However, she just thanked him for informing her about her purse strap and drove away.

It wasn't until two weeks later that he finally called and asked her to go to Spanky's with a group. During the next month, John called Denys three or four times, but she wasn't sure if she was interested, so she didn't call him back.

She finally said yes, though, and after their second date, the two started dating consistently.

During the summer of 1995, the two only saw each other twice, but they were able to write a lot of letters.

"When you write letters, you get to know a person in a whole new way," John said. "It made the summer apart easier."

In August, however, Denys and John got to be together again when she got a teaching job at Timberlake Christian School and he came back to Liberty. Their dating progressed.

Then during the Christmas break, John went to see Denys in her home state of Maine. To propose to Denys, he used a word game they play with each other. This is how it works: John says three words and Denys is supposed to guess what word is associated with all three clues. For example, the three clues could be paper, bag and bugle. The answer would be boy because boy goes with all three clues.

John had the ring in his pocket and the three clues were brass, class and guard. He was trying to get her to say ring. Unfortunately for John, Denys was tired and not really in the mood to play the game. Meanwhile, John was extremely nervous.

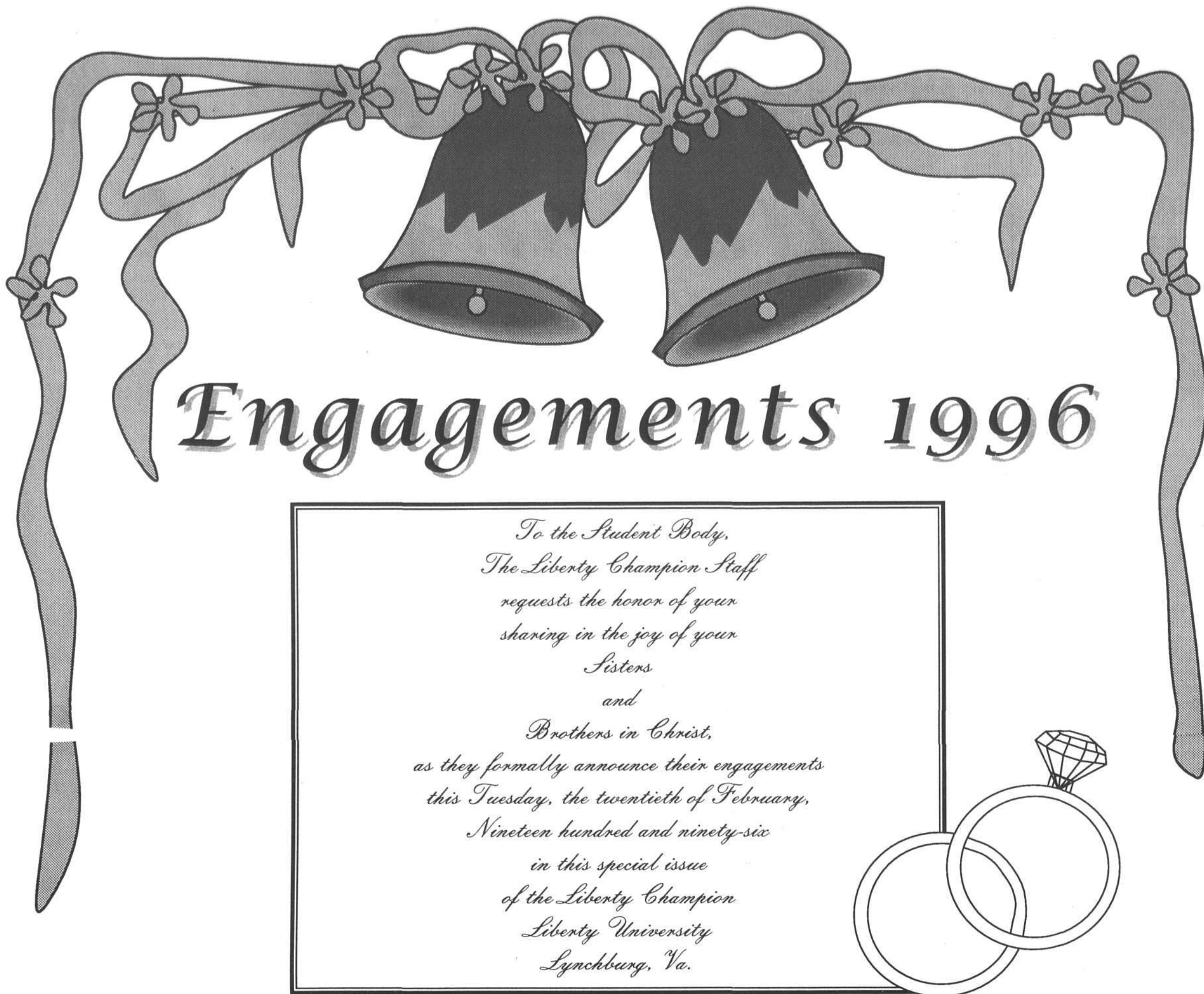
"I was shaking so bad," he said. "I was so nervous!"

Denys noticed that John was acting funny, and she asked him if he was OK and he said his feet were just cold. He then asked her to think about the clues again.

When she said she had no idea, he gave her another clue. The clue was bearer (as in ring bearer). She then complained again that she was tired. She wanted to just pick up the game in the morning.

Finally, John decided to try just one more clue. He said the word ear. Denys finally exclaimed, "The answer is ring!" John then looked at her and said, "I could have made the game easy for you and just given you the word 'diamond' as your clue."

He then pulled out the ring. He said to her, "Denys, I love you and I want to spend the rest of my life with you; will you marry me?" She accepted! The couple plan to get married on August 17 in Maine. They plan to go to Aruba for their honeymoon.



— Graphics by Susan Lindner

*To the Student Body,
The Liberty Champion Staff
requests the honor of your
sharing in the joy of your
Sisters
and
Brothers in Christ,
as they formally announce their engagements
this Tuesday, the twentieth of February,
Nineteen hundred and ninety-six
in this special issue
of the Liberty Champion
Liberty University
Lynchburg, Va.*



Mr. and Mrs. Douglas J. Bennett of West Chester, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter, Joanne Amelia Bennett, to Dean Norton Parker Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean N. Parker of Downingtown, Pa.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Downingtown Senior High School in Downingtown, Pa. She will complete a B.S. degree in elementary education at LU in December 1996.

Parker is a graduate of High Point Baptist Academy in Giegertown, Pa. He is a business management major at LU, graduating in December 1996.

A June 15, 1996, wedding is planned in Downingtown, Pa.

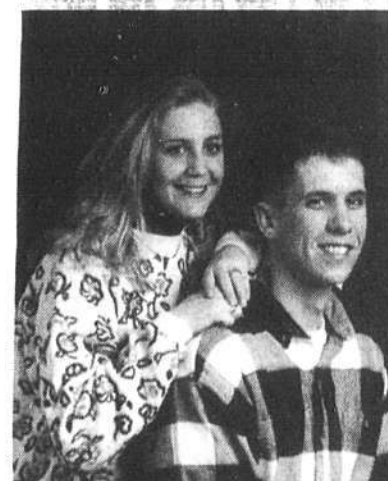


Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Brandon of Portsmouth, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter, Dorothea E. Brandon, to Billy L. Stone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce E. Stone Sr. of Portsmouth, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, Va. She will complete a B.S. degree in elementary education at LU in May 1998.

Stone is a graduate of I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth, Va. He is a government major at LU, graduating in May 1998.

A December 1997 wedding is planned in Portsmouth, Va.



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Clements of Lynchburg, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter Heather Clements to Jamey Elder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Elder of Lynchburg, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Elkins High School in Elkins, W. Va. She will complete a B.S. degree in psychology at LU in May 1997.

Elder is a graduate of Lynchburg Christian Academy in Lynchburg, Va. He is an accounting major at LU, graduating in May 1996.

A July 6, 1996, wedding is planned in Lynchburg, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis R. Cockerham of Myrtle Beach, S.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Lynn Cockerham, to Michael Todd Howard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Howard of Lynchburg, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Calvary Christian School in Myrtle Beach, S.C. She will complete a B.S. degree in speech communications at LU in December 1996.

Howard is a graduate of Brookville High School in Lynchburg, Va. He obtained a degree in computer information systems from Central Virginia Community College in May 1993.

A May 1997 wedding is planned in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

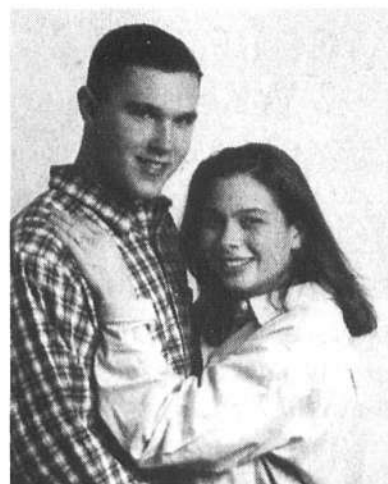


Mr. and Mrs. Dave Comfort of Mt. Laurel, N.J., announce the engagement of their daughter Jennifer Comfort to Kristofer Anderson, son of Mr. Don Anderson of Durham, N.H., and Mrs. Ellyn DeCasanova of Louisville, Ky.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Lenape High School in Medford, N.J. She will complete a B.S. degree in psychology at LU in May 1996.

Anderson is a graduate of Lenape High School in Medford, N.J. He is a physical therapy major at Stockton State College in New Jersey.

A wedding date has not yet been set.



Mr. and Mrs. Terry Cover of Bedford, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter Nicole Cover to Michael Ottinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ottinger of Chesapeake, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Everett Christian Academy in Everett, Pa. She will complete a B.S. degree in communications at LU in May 1998.

Ottinger is a graduate of Greenbrier Christian Academy in Chesapeake, Va. He is a religion major at LU, graduating in May 1996.

A wedding date has not yet been set.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Gaffney of Indialantic, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter Sheila Ann Gaffney to Adam Perry Helms, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Helms of Melbourne Beach, Fla.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Melbourne High School in Melbourne, Fla. She will complete a B.S. degree in elementary education in December 1997.

Helms is a graduate of Satellite High School in Satellite Beach, Fla. He is an English major at LU, graduating in December 1997.

A June 1, 1996, wedding is planned in Indialantic, Fla.



Mr. and Mrs. Diaz of Belo Horizonte, MG Brazil, announce the engagement of their daughter Adriana Diaz to Greg Wheaton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton of Belo Horizonte, MG Brazil.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Santos Dumont in Belo Horizonte, MG Brazil. She will complete a B.S. degree in nursing at LU in May 1998.

Wheaton is a graduate of Bethany High School in Belo Horizonte, MG Brazil. He is an exercise science major, graduating in May 1996.

A June 1997 wedding is planned in Belo Horizonte, MG Brazil.



Mr. and Mrs. John Dale Fuls of Aylette, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter Sara Kristen Fuls to Robert Stephen Biley, son of Mr. James Christopher Biley of Richmond, Va. and Mrs. Linda Jarratt Ribakov of Boykins, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of King William High School in King William County, Va. She will complete a B.S. degree in physical education at LU in December 1997.

Biley is a graduate of Lee-Davis High School in Mechanicsville, Va. He is a communications major at LU, graduating in December 1997.

A June 29, 1996, wedding is planned in Richmond, Va.



Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Greene of Chesapeake, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter Teresa Lynne Greene to Cory Lane Seibel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kirby A. Seibel of Bismarck, N.D.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Greenbrier Christian Academy in Chesapeake, Va. She will complete a B.S. degree in English education at LU in May 1997.

Seibel is a graduate of Bismarck High School in Bismarck, N.D. He is a biblical studies major at LU, graduating in the summer of 1996.

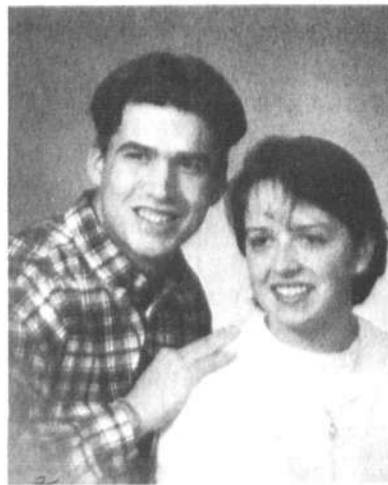
A July 27, 1996, wedding is planned in Chesapeake, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gomez of Waynesboro, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter Victoria Gomez to Brian Minger, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Minger of Stuarts Draft, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite High School in Harrisonburg, Va. She will complete a B.A. degree in youth ministry at LU in May 1999.

Minger is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite High School in Harrisonburg, Va. He is a pastoral ministries major at LU, graduating in May 1999.

A July 1996 wedding is planned in Waynesboro, Va.

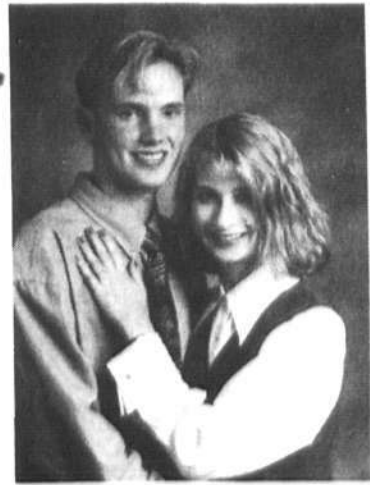


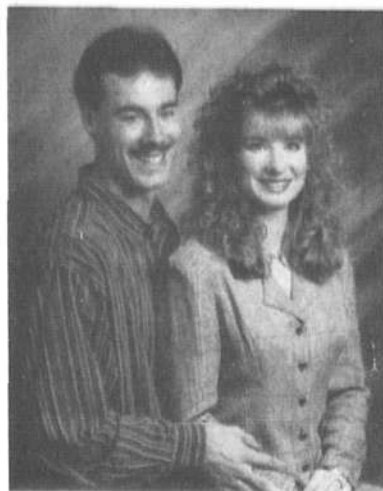
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Good of Baldwinsville, N.Y., announce the engagement of their daughter Amy May Good to Nathaniel Caleb Carman, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Carman of Hammond, Ind.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Faith Heritage High School in Syracuse, N.Y. She will complete a B.S. degree in psychology at LU in May 1997.

Carman is a graduate of Morton Senior High School in Hammond, Ind. He is a biology major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

A July 6, 1996, wedding is planned in Baldwinsville, N.Y.





Mr. Dana M. Groff Jr. of Tampa, Fla., and Mrs. Donna Bass Groff of Collierville, Tenn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Caroline Margaret Groff, to Michael Alfred Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Roberts of Boothbay, Maine.

The bride-elect is a graduate of St. Benedict at Auburndale in Cordova, Tenn. She will complete a B.S. degree in speech communications at LU in May 1996.

Roberts is a graduate of Boothbay Region High School in Boothbay, Maine. He minored in business, government and aviation at LU, graduating in May 1994.

A June 14, 1996, wedding is planned in Collierville, Tenn.

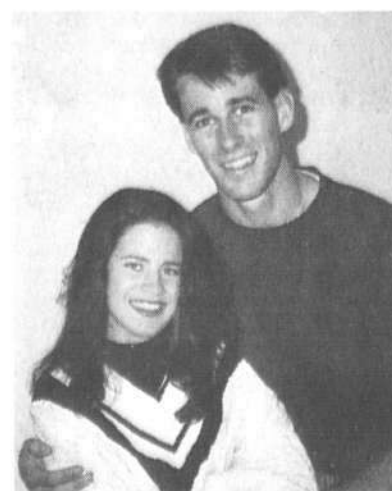


Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hall Jr. of Scottsdale, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter, Dana L. Hall, to Steve R. Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Wagner of Millington, Md.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Southmoreland High School in Alverton, Pa. She completed a B.S. degree in general studies at LU in December 1994.

Wagner is a graduate of Capitol Baptist High School in Dover, Del. He is both an English and biblical studies major at LU, graduating in May 1996.

A July 20, 1996, wedding is planned in Scottsdale, Pa.



Mr. Dennis Higgins and Mrs. Gloria Higgins of Levant, Maine, announce the engagement of their daughter, Denys Higgins, to John Byrum, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Byrum of Jacksonville, N.C.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Bangor Christian High School in Bangor, Maine. She completed a B.A. degree in English at LU in May 1995.

Byrum is a graduate of Jacksonville High School in Jacksonville, N.C. He is a communications major at LU, graduating in May 1996.

An Aug. 17, 1996, wedding is planned in Bangor, Maine.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Bonnie Johnson of Findlay, Ohio, announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Johnson, to Brian Betham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry and Susan Betham of Lynchburg, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Southside Christian School in Greenville, S.C. She will complete a B.S. degree in exercise science at LU in May 1997.

Betham is a graduate of Heritage High School in Lynchburg, Va. He is a physical education major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

A July 1997 wedding is planned in Findlay, Ohio.



Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Bartlett of Tacoma, Wash., announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Ann Jordan, to Jason Marc Hauffe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hauffe of Hazlet, N.J.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Curtis High School in Tacoma, Wash. She will complete a B.S. degree in English at LU in December 1996.

Hauffe is a graduate of Raritan High School in Hazlet, N.J. He is a pastoral studies major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

A June 15, 1996, wedding is planned in Tacoma, Wash.



Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jurina of North Canton, Ohio, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly L. Jurina, to Brian C. Plaster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Plaster of Culpeper, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Heritage Christian School in Canton, Ohio. She will complete a B.S. degree in psychology at LU in May 1996.

Plaster is a graduate of Culpeper County High School in Culpeper, Va. He is a business management major at LU, graduating in May 1996.

A Dec. 21, 1996, wedding is planned in Canton, Ohio.



Mr. and Mrs. Lacey C. Lord Sr. of Spotsylvania, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Lord, to Matthew Pritchett, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Pritchett Jr. of Spotsylvania, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Spotsylvania High School in Spotsylvania, Va. She will complete a B.S. degree in psychology at LU in May 1996.

Pritchett is a graduate of Courtland High School in Spotsylvania, Va. He is a criminal justice major graduate of Radford University.

A spring 1997 wedding is planned in Spotsylvania, Va.



Mr. and Mrs. Harley Hopkins of Addy, Wash., announce the engagement of their daughter, Melanie Hopkins, to Clay Bailey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bailey and Ms. Diane Carroll of Petersburg, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Jenkins High School in Chewelah, Wash. She will complete a B.S. degree in education at LU in December 1997.

Bailey is a graduate of Dinwiddie High School in Dinwiddie, Va. He is a youth ministries major at LU, graduating in May 1998.

A July 20, 1996, wedding is planned in Chewelah, Wash.



Mr. Barry Kaye of Long Beach, Calif., and Mrs. Barbara Kaye of Citrus Heights, Calif., announce the engagement of their daughter, Gabrielle Kaye, to Shawn Corcoran, son of Mr. and Mrs. John and Naomi Corcoran of Richmond, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Del Campo High School in Fair Oaks, Calif. She will complete a B.S. degree in pre-law at LU in May 1996.

Corcoran is a graduate of Richmond Christian School in Richmond, Va. He graduated from LU in May 1995, majoring in English.

A May 18, 1996, wedding is planned in Richmond, Va.



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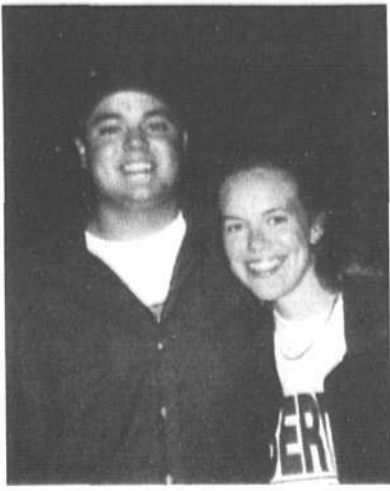


Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ivey of Houlton, Maine, and Mr. Kim McPhee of Daquum, Maine, announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Beth McPhee, to Matthew Donald Leslie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Leslie of Lynchburg, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Hodgdon High School in Hodgdon, Maine. She will complete a B.S. degree in psychology at LU in May 1996.

Leslie is a graduate of Lynchburg Christian Academy, in Lynchburg, Va. He is an accounting major at LU graduating in May 1996.

A June 22, 1996, wedding is planned in Houlton, Maine.



Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Randall of Concord, N.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Inger Rebekah, to David Jonathon, son of Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Flöge of Whitney Point, N.Y.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord, N.C. She will complete a B.S. degree in family and consumer science at LU, graduating in May 1998.

Flöge is a graduate of Whitney Point High School in Whitney Point, N.Y. He is a missions major at LU, graduating in May 1998.

A May 11, 1996, wedding is planned in Charlotte, N.C.



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reed of Argos, Ind., announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Reed, to Wayne Lance Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lance Sr. of Scranton, Pa.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Argos High School in Argos, Tenn. She will complete a B.S. degree in nursing at LU in May 1997.

Lance is a graduate of Scranton Central High School in Scranton, Pa. He is a physical education/sports management major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

A June 22, 1996, wedding is planned in Argos, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sprouse of Covington, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathy Sprouse, to Robbie Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Price of Covington, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Covington High School in Covington, Va. She will complete a B.S. degree in nursing at LU in May 1996.

Price is a graduate of Allegheny High School in Covington, Va. He is a nursing major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

A Jan. 4, 1997, wedding is planned in Covington, Va.



Mr. and Mrs. Spuhler of Camp Hill, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth, to James Whalen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Whalen of Camp Hill, Pa.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Cedar Cliff High School in Camp Hill, Pa. She will complete a B.S. degree in business at LU in May 1996.

Whalen is a graduate of Cedar Cliff High School in Camp Hill, Pa. He is an exercise science major at the University of Pittsburgh, graduating April 1996.

A Sept. 21, 1996, wedding is planned in Camp Hill, Pa.

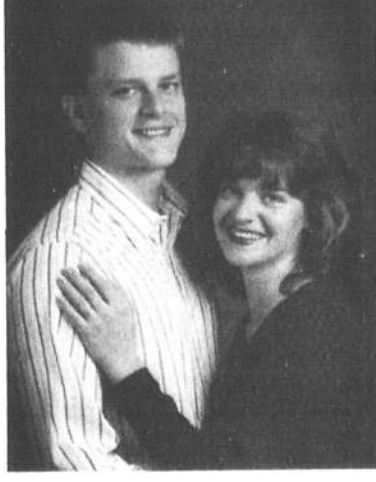


Mr. and Mrs. Kent Warren of Franklin, Mass., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori Warren, to John Zacharias, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Zacharias of Callaway, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Franklin High School in Franklin, Mass. She will complete a B.S. degree in general studies with elementary teacher certification at LU in December 1996.

Zacharias is a graduate of John Jay Sr. High School in East Fishkill, N.Y. He is a 1995 exercise science graduate of LU.

A June 15, 1996, wedding is planned in Sudbury, Mass.



Mr. and Mrs. Terry L. Watkins Sr. of Charleston, S.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Sandra Louise Watkins, to Eric Christian Herrman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Herrman of Hilton Head, S.C.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Northside Christian School in Charleston, S.C. She will complete a B.S. degree in mathematics at LU in May 1996.

Herrman is a graduate of Hilton Head Preparatory School in Hilton Head, S.C. He is a graduate student in biomedical engineering at the University of Kentucky, graduating in May 1996.

An Aug. 3, 1996, wedding is planned in Charleston, S.C.



Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wood of Charleston, S.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Wood, to Matt Berrens, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Berrens of Ripon, Calif.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Northside Christian School in Charleston, S.C. She will complete a B.S. degree in business finance at LU in May 1996.

Berrens is a graduate of Davis High School in Modesto, Calif. He is a pastoral major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

A June 14, 1996, wedding is planned in Charleston, S.C.



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond and Nancy Musuneci of North Scituate, R.I., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lyra Woodruff, to Richard MacLone III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Nancy MacLone of East Falmouth, Mass.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Ponaganset High School in Gloucester, R.I. She will complete a B.S. degree in family and consumer science at LU in May 1997.

MacLone is a graduate of Falmouth High School in Falmouth, Mass. He is a communications major at LU, graduating in May 1997.

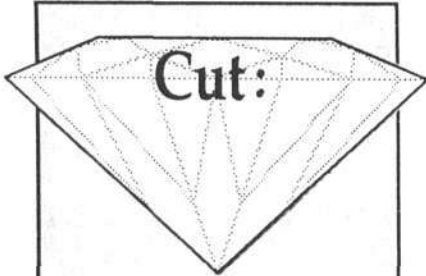
A June 1997, wedding is planned in Greenville, R.I.

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Do you know how to determine the quality and value of a diamond? Do you know what questions to ask? Buying a diamond can be a mystifying process. But there's no mystery about why ideal cut diamonds are more brilliant and beautiful than other diamonds. To be more confident when you shop for a diamond, take a moment to read the information below.

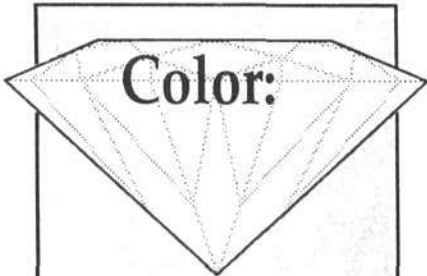
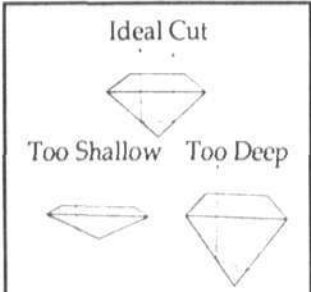


Cut:

Many people confuse cut with the shape of a diamond. Diamonds are cut into a number of shapes, but whatever the shape, **MAKE SURE YOUR DIAMOND'S CUT IS IDEALLY PROPORTIONED.** When you buy a non-ideal cut diamond, you may pay more for extra weight. Extra weight that does nothing for the beauty or value of the stone.

When your diamond is ideally cut, light rays from all sides are bent towards the center of the stone and are reflected back through the top in a blaze of light. If your diamond is not ideally cut, light will "leak out" through the side or bottom of the stone causing a loss of brilliance. The optical properties most admired in a diamond are the (1) Brilliance, (2) Dispersion (known as "fire"), and (3) Scintillation (known as "sparkle"). These properties are maximized by cutting the diamond's facets along mathematically established ideal proportions, fulfilling the highest requirements of cut-grading.

The pattern of light flow in differently proportioned diamonds is shown below.

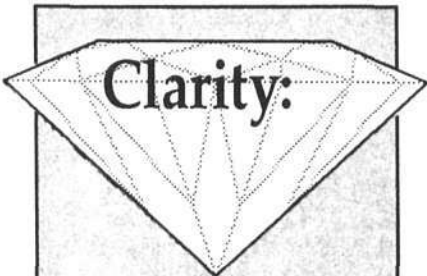


Color:

Diamonds are found with a range of colors, from faint yellow or brown to the very rare pinks, blues, greens and other colors known as "fancies." However, the best color for a diamond is no color. A totally colorless diamond allows white light to pass effortlessly through it and be dispersed as rainbows of color.

The only way to see the true color of a diamond is to look at the stone, unmounted, through its side against a white background.

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) grading scale ranges from totally colorless to light yellow. The differences between one color grade and another are very subtle, and these small differences can mean big differences in value.



Clarity:

To determine your diamond's clarity, it must be viewed under 10-power magnification by a trained eye. Most diamonds contain tiny natural inclusions. However, the fewer and smaller the inclusions, the less likely they will interfere with the passage of light through your diamond, and the more beautiful your diamond will be. A diamond free of interior inclusions or exterior blemishes is very rare and more valuable. Again, even small differences in clarity grades can mean big differences in value.



Carat Weight:

Bigger is only Bigger, but not necessarily Better. Carat weight is the standard measurement for diamond size and is actually the least important in determining the brilliance and beauty of a diamond. One carat is divided into 100 "points", just like one dollar has 100 pennies, so that a diamond of 75 points weighs .75 carats.

Carat-weight is the easiest diamond characteristic to determine. Two diamonds of equal weight can have very unequal value, depending on their cut, color, clarity.

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Colorless			Near Colorless			Faint Yellow			Very Light Yellow			Light Yellow											

TEOFIL'S QUALITY					GIA * CLARITY-GRADING SCALE									
FLAWLESS	VVSI-1	VVSI-2	VSI-1	VSI-2	SI-1	SI-2	I-1	I-2	I-3					
Very Very Slight Inclusions		Very Slight Inclusions		Slight Inclusions		Imperfect								

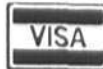
*Gemological Institute of America

*Gemological Institute of America

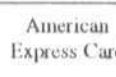
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Diagrams courtesy of the Gemological Institute of America and Lazare Kaplan Inc.

Flames burn up Big South Conference

Continued from Page 14

is an area we need to work on."

Eric Sorensen, Aluma, Larry Jackson and Mark Reed all scored in double figures in the game, with Aluma leading with 26. After the victory, the Flames were excited about the win and looked ahead to their remaining conference games against Coastal Carolina and Winthrop.

"We knew coming in that Charleston Southern was playing well of late and we were going into a tough battle," Meyer said. "They are a team fully capable of winning the tournament. When we play well, like we did tonight, though, it shows a real team effort."

"We had some lapses tonight, but for the most part stayed in it," Aluma said. "We need to keep playing hard and improving. Overall, we played well tonight."

With Aluma's strong showing on Saturday night, Meyer praised his center, as well as lobbied for him.

"After this game, I feel Pete makes a strong push at being Player of the Year in the Big South," he said. "It was pretty much down to him and T.L. Latson (Charleston Southern forward), and it seemed to me Peter got the upper hand tonight." Latson was held to 19 points, four in the second half.

On Thursday night, the Flames played UNC Greensboro, the No. 1 ranked team in the Big South. The Flames played as if they were the favorite.

LU held the Spartans to 7-23 shooting from the field in the first half and never let up. Liberty led by as many as 25 points before cruising to a 67-47 victory. Aluma again led all scorers with 20 points, and White dished out eight assists.

"This win provides us some big momentum," Aluma said. "We need to stay hungry, humble and work hard. I don't think we really blew them out; they're a good team, no doubt about that. They'll be tough in the tournament."

Senior forward Barry Taylor said, "I guess in the

back of my mind I would like a return trip to the NCAA tournament. The last three games are key, however. We need to work hard, do well in the Big South Tournament. I feel a big reason we should do well is the fans' continued support for us; they're a big help. We want them to continue to support us the rest of the way by us continuing to play well."

On Tuesday night, the Flames traveled down to Blacksburg and took on No. 10 Virginia Tech. Liberty surprised the Hokies with tough play and consistent shooting and were up by as many as 11 before eventually losing 56-53. Tech guard Damon Watlington played the role of Grim Reaper by nailing three three-point shots in the second half.

It was all Flames in the first half, as they went into halftime with a 29-21 lead behind 11-24 shooting from the field; the Hokies shot only 9-26.

White led all scorers with 15, and the Flames defense kept Hokies' star Ace Custis to 10 points.



I'M OPEN — Eric Sorensen (24) awaits a pass from Adam Hopkins.

Rutigliano announces new recruits

By BRIAN HAGERMAN
Champion Reporter

Liberty University Head Football Coach Sam Rutigliano has announced the signing of 16 recruits to letters of intent for the 1996 football season.

"The quality of the group as a whole is excellent," Rutigliano said. "We recruited a lot of good athletes that fit the areas of need for us. The coaches did a great job for us."

Liberty shored up its defense, adding 11 players who play on the defensive side of the ball, including four linebackers and five defensive linemen.

Here is a little peek at the 16 recruits:

- Gary Adams, LB, Batesburg-Leesville High School (S.C.): 6-0, 190 lbs., one of the top 100 players in South Carolina, all-state, North-South all star, all-region and all-conference.
- Jonathan Benka, DE, Hickory High School (Pa.): 6-4, 265 lbs., all-conference,

- all-region, all-state, Big 33 all-star game, holds school record for most sacks in career, also recruited by Villanova and Hofstra.
- Daryl Cherry, DL, Green Run High School (Va.): 6-0, 270 lbs., First-team all-region, first-team all-beach, third-team all-state, also lettered in track.
- James Christian, LB, Volunteer High School (Tenn.): 6-2, 195 lbs., three AAA first-team all-state, all-region, all-conference, North East Tennessee and Appalachian Conference defensive player of the year.
- Brannon Duncan, WR/P/RS, Landmark Christian (Ga.): 5-9, 165 lbs., all-league, all-state, three-time Southside All-Star team, 400m class A state track champion in 1995.
- Jonathan Haun, DE, Donelson Christian Academy (Tenn.): 6-4, 235 lbs., school record 17 sacks, first-team all-state, first-team all-mid state, TSSAA academic achievement award.
- Jason Honeycutt, OL, from Mill High School (S.C.): 6-4, 270 lbs., one of top 100

- players in South Carolina, most valuable offensive lineman in region, all-state, all-conference, all-district, also recruited by Western Carolina, The Citadel and Charleston Southern.
- Jeffrey Howard, OL, Seabreeze High School (Fla.): 6-4, 315 lbs., all-conference, honorable mention Golden Helmet Award (given to best player in Florida), recruited by The Citadel, Western Carolina and Furman.
- Chris Johnson, TE/LB, Middleburg High School (Fla.): 6-4, 215 lbs., all-conference, all-city, school season record for most yards receiving by a tight end and blocked punts (7), recruited by Troy State, Army and Cincinnati.
- Larry Jordan, LB, Green Run High School (Va.): 5-10, 220 lbs., all-beach, all-tidewater, all-region and beach player of the year.
- Al Leatherwood, DE, Woodum High School (Fla.): 6-2, 235 lbs., all-state (5A), all-district, 58 tackles, eight sacks.

- Ramsey Moore, DB, Red Bank High School (Tenn.): 5-10, 170 lbs., all-region 3 (5A), all-city and honorable-mention all-state.
- Brian Nash, TE, Westfield High School (Ga.): 6-3, 218 lbs., Houston Time Journal Player of the Year, 1995 all-state GISA football, 1994 honorable-mention all-state.
- Christian Newsome, QB, Paint Valley High School (Ohio): 6-2, 185 lbs., two-time all-conference, two-time all-district, Ohio North-South All-Star, two-time Scioto Valley Punter of the Year.
- Stacy Nobles, RB/DB, Trinity Christian High School (Ga.): 5-10, 195 lbs., three-time first-team all-state, Hart of Georgia Offensive Player of the Year, 103 career TDs — second all-time in state of Georgia, 7,860 career all-purpose yards, 14 career interceptions.
- Torrey Rush, FS, East Claridon High School (S.C.): 6-1, 185 lbs., one of top 100 players in South Carolina, North-South All-Star, all-state.

Teams battling for tourney seeds

Continued from Page 14

ing against Winthrop on Feb. 21 and Radford on Feb. 24.

CSU is the conference's defending champion. The Buccaneers have posted a good record, but were swept by Liberty, thus losing the tie-breaker with that opponent. CSU finishes its season with games against RU on Feb. 19 and UNC Greensboro Feb. 24.

Radford finds itself with an outside shot of winning the conference title, but needs help. The Highlanders can help themselves by winning their remaining two games versus CSU Feb. 19 and at UNC Asheville Feb. 24.

The three remaining teams in the conference standings are more like pretenders than contenders. Winthrop started the season strongly, but have dropped to 5-7 in the conference. WU's remaining warm-ups for the tournament are at UNC A on Feb. 21 and hosting Liberty on Feb. 24.

UMBC has had a season to forget and finishes up against UNCG and Coastal Carolina.

Coastal Carolina has next season to look forward to. The Chanticleers have posted a miserable 1-10 conference record. They play at LU Feb. 19 and host UMBC Feb. 24.

Big South leaders

Men			Women		
Scoring			Scoring		
Latson, T.L.	CSU	19.2	Giffin, Vicki	UNCA	18.0
Aluma, Peter	LU	18.0	Tender, Tameka	CCU	16.5
Thompson, T.	UMBC	16.3	Lisa, Howard	RU	15.6
Avery, Ben	CCU	16.2	Moore, Alisa	UNCG	15.2
Lansdown, Jason	RU	16.2	Chrissy, Kelly	CSU	14.3
McMahan, David	WU	15.0	Hairston, Kim	RU	14.3
Larrick, Brett	CSU	14.6	Damann, Kendra	UMBC	14.2
Walker, Anthony	RU	13.9	Churchill, Jenn	WU	13.9
Ingram, M.	CCU	13.7	Logemann, Dede	RU	13.5
Pittman, Josh	UNCA	13.4	Boester, Tina	CCU	13.3
Rebounding			Rebounding		
Ingram, M.	CCU	9.6	Moore, Alisa	UNCG	10.0
Cuthrell, Eric	UNCG	8.9	Tender, Tameka	CCU	8.3
Bellinger, K.	UMBC	8.3	Weng, Beth	CSU	8.0
Coley, William	UNCA	7.1	Kitchin, Katherine	WU	7.5
Aluma, Peter	LU	7.0	Luebbers, M.	CCU	7.4
Latson, T.L.	CSU	7.0	Steadman, Jenn	CSU	6.8
Thompson, T.	UMBC	6.3	Logan, Monica	UMBC	6.3
Steele, Chad	WU	6.3	Churchill, Jenn	WU	6.2
Daniels, Jeff	CSU	6.1	Logemann, Dede	RU	6.0
Avery, Ben	CCU	6.0	Wyns, Michelle	LU	5.8
Blocks			Blocks		
Aluma, Peter	LU	4.1	Cruise, Kim	RU	1.9
Stevenson, R.	UNCA	1.6	Tender, Tameka	CCU	1.3
Cuthrell, E.	UNCG	1.5	Viverette, R.	UNCG	1.0
Lassitter, Todd	WU	1.5	Logemann, Dede	RU	1.0
Parker, Eric	RU	1.2	Greene, Amy	UMBC	0.8
Kartchner, C	CSU	1.2	Luebbers, M.	CCU	0.7
Clifton, J.	UNCG	1.0	Logan, Monica	UMBC	0.7
Horruiner, R.	CSU	0.9	Gay, Cary	UNCA	0.7
Williams, J.	RU	0.9	Fisher, Patti	RU	0.7
Belliner, K.	UMBC	0.8	Weng, Beth	CSU	0.6
Assists			Assists		
McPherson, E.	CSU	5.0	Luebbers, M.	CCU	6.2
Walker, Anthony	RU	4.9	Howard, Lisa	RU	5.7
Hartzell, Scott	UNCG	4.9	Kelly, Chrissy	CSU	5.1
Krieger, Vincent	UNCA	4.6	Moten, Tori	UMBC	5.1
Larrick, Brett	CSU	3.8	Hairston, Kim	RU	5.0
Nix, Deric	UNCG	3.8	Ferguson, Sam	UNCG	4.7
White, Marcus	LU	3.7	Giffin, Vicki	UNCA	4.4
Smith, Greg	CCU	3.5	Edwards, Amanda	UNCA	4.1
Kohn, Josh	UNCA	3.1	Pursifull, L.A.	WU	3.9
Jackson, Larry	LU	3.1	Motta, Deana	CCU	3.9

Future Flames Games

Men's Basketball

Feb. 24 at Winthrop

Feb. 29-March 2

Big South Conference

Tournament, at Vines Center

Women's Basketball

Feb. 24 vs. Winthrop

March 2 at UMBC

March 7-9

Big South Conference

Tournament, at Radford

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Softball gets ready

Season opens up March 1

By KEITH SAVOIE
Champion Reporter

The Lady Flames softball season is just a few short weeks away, and the team is preparing for its March 1 opener at Virginia Tech.

The man preparing the team for the upcoming season is Head Coach Paul Whetmore. In just his third year, Whetmore has established the Lady Flames as a real threat to the Big South hierarchy.

The Flames went from only eight wins in their first season to 24 last season, tripling their win output in one year. The team finished 25th in the nation with a .302 batting average; 23rd in slugging percentage; and 20th in home runs — all in a two-year span.

Leading the effort to better those numbers are the captains for this season, second baseman Jennifer Ward and hard-hitting catcher Shannon Tanski, who finished 19th in the nation in homeruns. Shannon made second team all conference last season.

"Shannon should be an all-conference catcher this year," Whetmore said.

The Lady Flames' pitching staff is very deep, with a four-player rotation. "We're going to be down on experience a little bit, but we have some fine young prospects." Junior Susan Naylor will be the No. 1 starter, and sophomore Carrie Rodgers will be the two-starter in the rotation. Highly recruited all-American Katie Phillips, who finished with an overall

high-school record of 74-4, will be third; and Robin Richards will be the middle reliever.

In the field, the Lady Flames are inexperienced, with possibly six freshmen on the field at one time.

"This could lead to a defensive breakdown, but only time will tell," Whetmore said.

Offensively, the Lady Flames are strong and will be very aggressive on the base paths. LU finished sixth in the nation in stolen bases two years ago.

The Flames will have new dugouts, as well as other improvements to the field. They are attempting to acquire a five-foot-high, stationary outfield fence, padded for the safety of the outfielders.

Other improvements include additions to the Flames' conference. The Big South has added UNC-Wilmington and East Carolina University to the conference in softball.

Despite these big schools entering the conference, along with other conference foes such as Coastal Carolina, Whetmore feels his team has a good chance at finishing fourth or better. "I do think it's possible to win the conference. We've come a long way in two years, but we are not satisfied," he said.

The team has set several goals, the most important being to represent Christ on and off the field. The team expects to win at least 30 games, bat .305 or better, field at around .950 or better and pilfer 100 bases or more; another goal is that each player will earn a 2.8 GPA or better.

Whetmore expects a lot from his pitchers also. "We've told them if they give up two runs, they're out of the game," he said.

Revenge: LU sweeps two from RU

By KEITH SAVOIE
Champion Reporter

The Liberty University Flames on ice avenged an earlier loss to Radford by winning a two-game series this weekend.

LU skated by Radford 2-1 Sunday night and 7-4 Saturday night in two tightly played games.

Hockey

"The guys skated hard, hit hard, and kept their cool on the ice," Coach Corrado Puglisi said.

The key to Liberty's wins was goaltending. In his first two games back, senior goalie Corey Walyuchow turned away most of what Radford had to offer.

LU forward Steve Clark turned in a strong performance as he finished the first game with a hat trick.

"Tonight's game was a big improvement for us; we stayed out of the (penalty) box, putting ourselves in a position to win the

game," Clark said. Clark also mentioned the spirituality of the Flames on the ice. "We have followed the same principles that Liberty was founded on: keeping Christ first; God seems to be blessing the team now," Clark said.

LU's defense was led by Darren Dick, who turned in a good first game, finishing with a goal and two assists.

"Coach told us to put shots on

net and hopefully some of them would go in; fortunately one of mine did," Dick said. "We need more practice on the ice, but with tonight's victory, we feel like we can play with anyone."

With only three practices since their last game, the Flames are coming together better than anyone could have anticipated.

"The team is pumped up," Puglisi said.



IN THE SLOT — A Flame puts a shot on the RU goalie.

Football players prepare to make pro jump

By JOSH HOWE
Champion Reporter

Draft day may not be on the minds of five Liberty football players, but the chance to work themselves onto an NFL roster by the opening week is. J.T. Morris, David Long, Tony Dews, Kelvin Cochran, and Sedrick Watkins are five former LU players who hope to accomplish that goal come September.

Antwan Chiles and Eric Colvard are also expected to play pro ball (*Champion*, Feb. 6).

Morris may be the leading candidate to take his game to the next level. After transferring from Penn State, Morris ran for 4.6 yards per carry in 13 games as a Flame.

In the second game of his junior season, Morris suffered a season-ending hip injury against Villanova. Because of the injury there are two answers that scouts want to know. "Number one, am I healthy again and (two) am I back to where I was against Villanova," Morris said.

Getting to where he was against Villanova appears to be close. In a workout with the Cleveland Browns,

Morris ran 4.49- and 4.51-second 40-yard dashes. Those times are comparable to most NFL running backs.

After getting off to a slow start this season, Morris turned it on in the final four games of the season, showing the skills that made him an All-American coming out of high school. The 5-11, 220-pound running back was instrumental in the Flames' winning three of their last four games.

As Morris Long looks to the next level, several things are in his favor. "I think my versatility will be a big plus. I can catch as well as run with the football," Morris said.

According to Morris, the route he plans to take is free agency; anything beyond that would be a bonus. Besides Cleveland, Morris has also worked out for Houston and Denver. After March 1, interest should increase because scouts will have more time available after college All-Star games.

Whether playing on special teams

or in the back field, Morris is willing to do just about anything. "Whatever it takes for me to do, I'll do that," Morris said.

With that attitude, there certainly may be a budding NFL future for Morris. "I think my best is yet to come," Morris said.

David Long enters the workout process for scouts with one thing against him: his size. At 6-1 and running a high 4.8 or 4.9 40-yard dash, Long may be considered two inches too short and two tenths of a second slow for the prototype NFL linebacker.

However, Long brings to the table perhaps the ultimate tools a linebacker needs at the next level, toughness and strength. "That's my one advantage, my strength," Long said.

When working out for a Cleveland Browns scout the 6-1, 240-pound linebacker benched 225 pounds 26 times.

Long displayed his toughness on the field for Liberty as he led the Flames in tackles both his junior and senior seasons, both seasons recording 100-plus tackles. His

senior season Long battled a nagging groin injury that limited his performance and he, like Morris, must overcome it.

"My groin (injury) really slowed me up ... it hurt my speed," Long said.

Long is very realistic about his chances of making the NFL. Although he will continue to work out for NFL scouts, he feels the CFL is more suited for him. "Everyone knows that I can play at that level ... I think my best route is the CFL."

"Just get me into the door, and I'll do what I need to do," Long said.

Tony Dews and Kelvin Cochran may not have had the most storied college careers, but they possess skills that make them NFL prospects.

After backing up current Denver Broncos tight-end Dwayne Carswell, Dews a 6-2, 259-pound tight end, caught 70 balls his final two seasons with Liberty and led the Flames in receptions his senior year. He carries to the workouts what he feels are the



Cochran

strong points in his bid to play in the NFL — "my ability to catch and ... a real good feel and understanding of the game."

Cochran played weakside linebacker for strong safety and outside linebacker for the Flames this season. He was a three-year starter for the Flames. Cochran showed a nose for getting to the football. His junior year, the 6-1, 225-pound linebacker recorded 55 solo tackles, deflected five passes and caused three fumbles.

In his senior campaign, Cochran booked 65 tackles.

He, like Dews, feels his football knowledge is a plus. "I feel I have a good understanding of the game," Cochran said.

Although unavailable for comment, Liberty defensive back Sedrick Watkins is also involved in workouts with NFL scouts. The 6-0, 183-pounder out of Fort Myers, Fla., led the Flames in interceptions his senior year and was second on the

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- All essays must be postmarked or hand delivered to Teofil's Jewelers by April 10, 1996.
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Big South

1983 NCAA Conference

Team	overall	conference	GB
1. UNC Greensboro	15-8	9-3	—
2. UNC Asheville	14-9	8-4	1
2. <i>Liberty</i>	14-10	8-4	1
2. Charleston Southern	13-11	8-4	1
5. Radford	13-11	7-5	2
6. Winthrop	6-17	5-7	4
7. UMBC	6-16	2-10	7
8. Coastal Carolina	3-19	1-11	8

Team	overall	conference	GB
1. Radford	12-9	8-2	—
1. UNC Greensboro	12-9	8-2	—
3. UMBC	9-12	6-4	2
4. Coastal Carolina	8-13	6-4	2
5. Winthrop	7-13	4-6	4
6. UNC Asheville	5-16	3-6	4.5
7. Charleston Southern	8-14	3-7	5
8. <i>Liberty</i>	5-18	2-10	7

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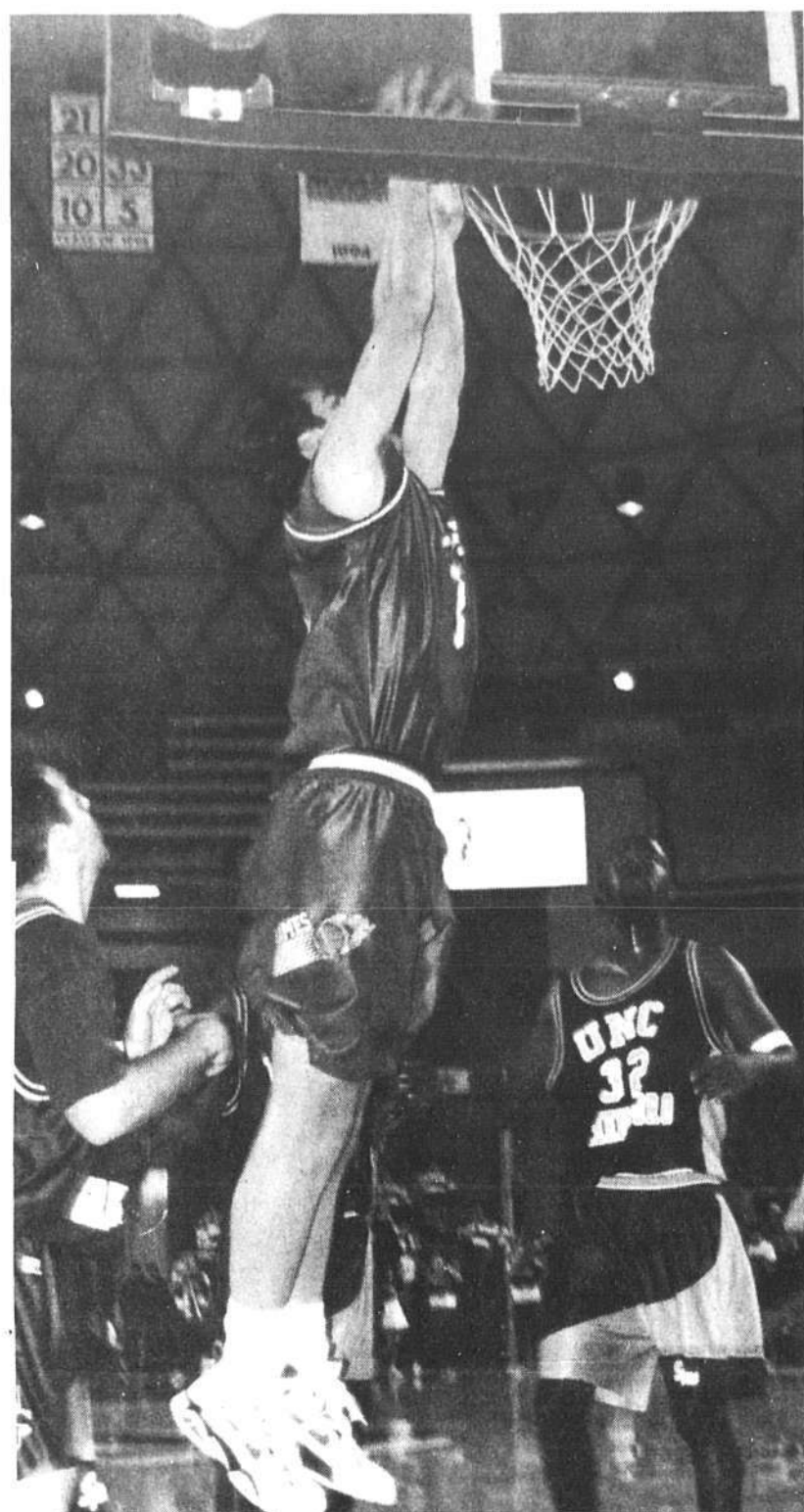
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Football team
signs plethora
of recruits **pg. 11**

The Champion Sports

Tying the knot:
Couples tell
their stories **pg. 7**

Flames hit stride



ADAM HOPS — LU forward Adam Hopkins dunks over UNC.

By BEN DONAHUE
Champion Reporter

The Liberty men's basketball team showed it is a team to reckon with in the upcoming Big South Conference Tournament with its second straight resounding win over a conference opponent.

The Flames (14-10 conference, 8-4 Big South) held off Charleston Southern (13-11, 8-4) 77-61 on Saturday night in front of 7,053 fans, capping off a week that saw perhaps LU's best basketball of the season.

CSU came within six points of the Flames after a Brett Larrick three-point shot with 3:15 remaining. LU answered the Larrick shot by finishing the game with a 13-3 run.

"I think we were really tired down the stretch. We did some good things, but (the pace of the game) caught up with us," Charleston Southern Head Coach Gary Edwards said.

LU built on a 35-29 half-time lead and inflated it up to as many as 17 points with 13:38 left to play. The exclamation point in the run came via Peter Aluma and Marcus White. The junior center's huge steal and break-away dunk put the crowd on its feet.

The fans were left standing as White stole the following inbound pass and duplicated Aluma's antics.

"After both dunks, we got into a lapse offensively. Fortunately it did not hurt us too badly," Aluma said.

"The two dunks were huge; it charged the crowd and looked to get us going, but then we hit a huge mark of offensive inconsistency," Head Coach Jeff Meyer said. "This

Men's Basketball



PRETTY, SO PRETTY — Marcus White watches Peter Aluma dunk.



RICH
MACLONE

Two stars must step aside

The sports world has come a long way. I remember the good old days when the worst thing an athlete had to worry about was twisting an ankle or a knee.

In today's society, a participant has much more to worry about, the worst of which are the HIV virus and AIDS.

Boxer Tommy Morrison and basketball player Earvin "Magic" Johnson are the most famous athletes to be diagnosed with this deadly disease. While Morrison has been forced into retirement by the boxing world, Johnson has made a comeback to the world of basketball.

I believe that neither Johnson nor Morrison should be allowed to participate in their respective sports. There is too much that doctors do not know about the disease, and what you don't know can kill you.

I realize that many of my readers will disagree with my stand on Magic. First of all, let me tell you that I have enjoyed watching the Magic-man on the court since I was a little kid. When I reminisce about the clash of the titans between him and Larry Bird, it still gives me goose-bumps.

Still, he should not be allowed on the basketball court.

Magic Johnson has a disease that could infect other players on the court — period. Basketball is a physical game. Players bang under the boards and throw elbows, and often blood does appear on the court. For example, Peter Aluma caught an elbow from Virginia Tech's Travis Jackson under the glass last Tuesday night. The elbow opened up a cut on Aluma's forehead, and he was forced to leave the game and get a bandage.

This scenario could just as easily happen to Johnson. Elbows do fly during basketball games; people can get hurt. If it happened to Johnson, someone could catch a deadly disease. Is that fair to the other players in the NBA? I don't think so.

Johnson should hang up his high-tops for good and just be happy that he was fortunate enough to play in the best league in the world for as long as he did. He should not be threatening the lives of others because he misses the feeling he gets on the court. Isn't being selfish with his own physical wants what got him the disease in the first place?

Morrison should, without a doubt, forget about ever stepping into another boxing ring. Boxing is the most punishing sport on the planet. Just a few months ago, Morrison was beat to a bloody pulp by Lennox Lewis. I don't think any boxer will want to step into the ring against a man with AIDS when he knows that his goal is to make the opponent bleed.

Both Johnson and Morrison should walk away and be happy with what they accomplished. Neither one has anything to be ashamed of when looking back at his career, that is unless they decide to take the lives of others into their own hands. If they do that, they will have an awful lot to be ashamed of.

B.S. foes battle for high seeds

By RICH MACLONE
Sports Editor

... And down the stretch they come.

The Big South Conference has one week remaining before the end of the regular season, and little has been decided. Two games in the standings are all that separates the top team in the conference (UNC Greensboro) from the fifth team in the conference (Radford).

Liberty (14-10 overall, 8-4 conference) is currently sitting in a tie for the second spot in the Big South after defeating Charleston Southern (13-11, 8-4) 77-61 at the Vines Center Saturday night. Charleston Southern is in a tie for third with Asheville, despite having

an identical record to both Asheville and Liberty. LU swept the season series with CSU, giving Liberty the higher seed.

The win for Liberty proved large in the conference standings, according to LU Head Coach Jeff Meyer.

"It's a triple-impact game. We move up (in the standings), UNC Asheville moves back, and Liberty gets all ties," Meyer said.

Liberty seems to have an ace sitting in its back pocket that no other team has: LU will host the Big South Conference tournament Feb. 29-March 2.

Charleston Southern Head Coach Gary

Edwards dismissed that thought after losing to the Flames Saturday night. "It's not tough at all for us to come (into the Vines Center) and win. We look forward to playing in (that environment). We love coming in here. It's what college basketball is all about."

Here is how the challengers stack up as they race toward the season's showcase:

UNC Greensboro, who was a heavy favorite to run away with the regular-season crown, began the conference season with a 7-0 record. Since UNCG has faltered down the stretch, going 2-3 in its last five games, including a 67-47 shellacking at the hands of Liberty on Feb. 15. The Spartans still cling to a one-game lead in the conference standings.

They finish up with UMBC and CSU.

Liberty seems to be the hottest of the contenders at the present time. LU has won five of its last six contests, with the only loss in that stretch coming against No. 10 Virginia Tech. Liberty has dismissed its last four conference foes, with only Coastal Carolina on Feb. 19 and Winthrop (on the road) Feb. 24 remaining.

UNC Asheville (16-8, 8-4), who had been in a first-place tie with UNC Greensboro, failed to keep pace by dropping a nail-biter to Big South doormat UMBC 63-62 in Baltimore on Saturday. UNC Asheville has two Big South Conference games remain-

See Teams, page 11

LU falls into 3-game drought

By LAURELEI MILLER
Champion Reporter

After taking two steps forward last week, the Lady Flames took three big steps back this week.

The Lady Flames' season took a turn for the worse as they suffered defeat three and slid downward in the standings to 5-18 overall, 2-10 Big South.

Charleston Southern (8-14, 3-7) broke a four-game losing streak of its own as it topped the Flames 72-63 in Saturday's matchup.

"We're complacent right now," Flames Head Coach Rick Reeves said.

Down by just two after the first half, Liberty watched the Buccaneers widen the point-spread to 17. A furious comeback attempt by LU trimmed the score to within four, but in the final minute, the Buccaneers' offense took charge and added five to seal the game.

Forward Erin Wall led the Flames with 12 points, followed by Angie

Women's Basketball



I DREAM OF ... — Genie Stinnett lets a three-pointer fly against NC A&T at the Vines Center.

McDaniel, who came off the bench to tally 11 points and snag 10 boards.

Thursday's contest generated some last-second excitement, but North Carolina A&T smuggled a 44-43 win over the Lady Flames.

"They outplayed us, and they wanted the win more than we did,"

Reeves said.

After trailing by four at halftime, Liberty hung with NC A&T, and stole the lead on a jumper by Keri Johnson with 1:28 left on the clock, but an NC A&T layup went unanswered in the final 55 seconds as the Flames were unable to land a winner.

"We have to be mentally tough to get to the point where when the game is on the line, we can step up (our play), and that comes with experience," said Johnson, the Flames' leading scorer, who finished with 12. "We just weren't mentally ready, and it showed on the court with our

offense, defense and every other aspect of the game like our rebounds and free throws."

"I was really just disappointed in the effort," Reeves said. "With that type of effort, we couldn't beat a high-school team."

On Tuesday, Campbell's Fighting Camels trampled the fire out of the Flames' two-game winning streak with a 79-54 final.

The 25-point defeat came despite a superb outing by forward Angie McDaniel, whose offensive accuracy landed her a career-high 19 points as she sunk six of six field goals.

Gripping a six-point advantage at the half, Campbell opened the second period with a 24-3 run, but Liberty responded with a 20-2 run of its own, slicing a 30-point lead down to 12.

The Camels' reservoir was far from dry, however, as they served up another big 17-4 run to silence any chance of an LU comeback.

Three-pointers refused to fall for the Lady Flames; only one of 11 (9 percent) dropped through the net.