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LIBERTY CHAMPION

25th Anniversary

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 • Vol. 25 No. 20

Eight glasses a day

Recent studies reveal that humans need not drink eight glasses of water a day to be healthy

NEWS • A3

Man behind the fist

Opinion reveals that there is more to Chuck Norris than being Walker, Texas Ranger

OPINION • A4

The sky's the limit

YOUR MISSION, IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT — Melvin was one of seven crew members who attached the European laboratory unit, Columbus, to the International Space Station.



Melvin encouraged students to pursue a vision

By Natalie Lozano
NEWS REPORTER

Astronaut and Lynchburg native Leland Melvin addressed the Liberty campus in convocation on April 7, two months after his first voyage to outer space.

Melvin was one of the six members of the STS-121 crew of the Space Shuttle Atlantis, which launched on Feb. 7 and returned Feb. 20. The mission was to carry and then attach the European laboratory unit, Columbus, to the International Space Station.

Melvin's role was to use a robotic arm to move the Columbus from the Atlantis payload bay and attach it to the International Space Station.

Convocation began with Lynchburg Mayor Joan Foster honoring Melvin by declaring Monday, April 7, 2008 to be Leland Melvin Day.

Melvin summarized his trip with a slideshow presentation, including pictures taken from out-

side the Space Shuttle Atlantis while it sped through space at "17,500 miles an hour — pretty fast," according to Melvin.

Other pictures depicted the astronauts hugging, working, playing with their food and enjoying the view of earth from space.

"I wish I were a poet so I could describe it... You see how fragile our planet is, but also that there are no borders," Melvin said in a press conference.

Melvin encouraged the convocation audience to find and pursue a vision: "You might not know exactly what you want to do, but you have a path."

In college, Melvin did not aspire to be an astronaut, but he said, "I loved math and science" and had "people along the way who helped me find my vision."

Please see MELVIN, A3

Summer classes open

By Daniel Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

Summer classes are officially open and available for Liberty students looking for a way to knock off a few credits in between the spring and fall 2008 semesters.

"There are currently over 140 classes offered residually between the multiple summer sessions for this coming summer," according to Tom Butler of the Registrar's Office.

The summer undergraduate tuition rate is \$295 per credit hour, and an abundance of classes are available, with some classes being offered on campus and some through the Distance Learning Program (DLP). Graduate and DLP course rates remain the same.

Classes are offered in three summer sessions. The first session runs from May 12 to June 6, the second from June 9 to July 4 and the final sessions starts on July 7 and ends on July 25, just a few weeks before the beginning of the next academic school year.

Please see SUMMER, A2

Jungle camp

Students prepare to serve on the mission field

By Drew Menard
& Jennifer Schmidt
NEWS REPORTER
& NEWS EDITOR

Seven Liberty students left the beaten path during spring break to experience Jungle Camp in Pennsylvania for five days. Joined by students from three other colleges, the three-credit intensive course run by New Tribes Missions (NTM) was held in the same camp where NTM missionaries are trained. Students learned about culture and language acquisition during morning sessions. In the afternoon, students were required to practically apply what they had learned in a simulated tribal village.

All of the staff missionaries have previously worked as full-time missionaries with indigenous tribes. They brought experience and firsthand accounts to the classrooms while also dressing up and acting like members from various South American tribes in the mock village.

"I had no idea what they were saying — it was overwhelming," senior Bear Yarbrough said.

After being taught how to look for language patterns, students were tested in real life scenarios.

Please see JUNGLE, A6

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

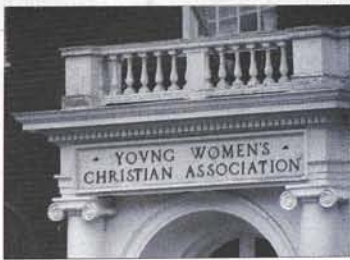
Taking a stand against child abuse

LU alumnus joins the fight against domestic violence

By Jennifer Schmidt
NEWS EDITOR

Almost 50,000 children were reported as possible victims of domestic abuse in Virginia last year. In light of such reports, Jenna Lodge, a 2007 graduate of Liberty University, has created Child Abuse Awareness Week to inform and mobilize students in the fight against child abuse. Kicking off on April 14, the week-long emphasis is meant to raise awareness and funding for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Students can buy "Prevent Child Abuse" bracelets for the cost of \$1 starting that Monday. Such donations would help Lodge start a new program at the YWCA called Young Achievers.

Please see YWCA, A6



JENNIFER SCHMIDT

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www.liberty.edu/champion.

News Briefs

AMERICANS RESPOND

Eighty-one percent of Americans think the U.S. has "pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track," according to a recent New York Times/CBS poll. In addition, 78 percent of those polled said things in America are worse today than they were five years ago. Bush's job approval rating has dropped to a low of 28 percent.

POLYGAMOUS SCANDAL

Nearly 200 women and children have been removed from a polygamist religious retreat in Texas following reports of abuse, according to The Associated Press. The retreat is run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a polygamist Mormon sect, and was built by Warren Jeffs.

FLAME EXTINGUISHED

Paris police extinguished the Olympic flame twice as it traveled through Paris, according to the AP. The flame was put out to protect it from protesters angry about the human rights violations in Tibet.

PREGNANT MAN

A transgender "man" named Thomas Beatie is five months pregnant, according to Oprah.com. Beatie, who is married to wife Nancy, is legally classified as a male but has female reproductive organs, allowing him to be impregnated through artificial insemination. "Our situation ultimately will ask everyone to embrace the gamut of human possibility and to define for themselves what is normal," Beatie told The Advocate.

TEACHER THREATENED

A group of 8- and 9-year-old third graders from an elementary school in south Georgia plotted to attack their schoolteacher, bringing a broken steak knife, handcuffs, duct tape and other materials to school, according to the AP. The children were angry because the teacher "had scolded one of them for standing on a chair," according to the article.

HESTON DIES

Actor Charlton Heston, 84, died Saturday, according to the AP. Heston starred in numerous films, including "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben-Hur" as well as heading the National Rifle Association as a gun-rights activist. President Bush called Heston a "strong advocate for liberty."

4 need to read stories in this issue

OPINION • A4

1 The Hill examines how wild card Ralph Nader could effect November's presidential race.

SPORTS • B2

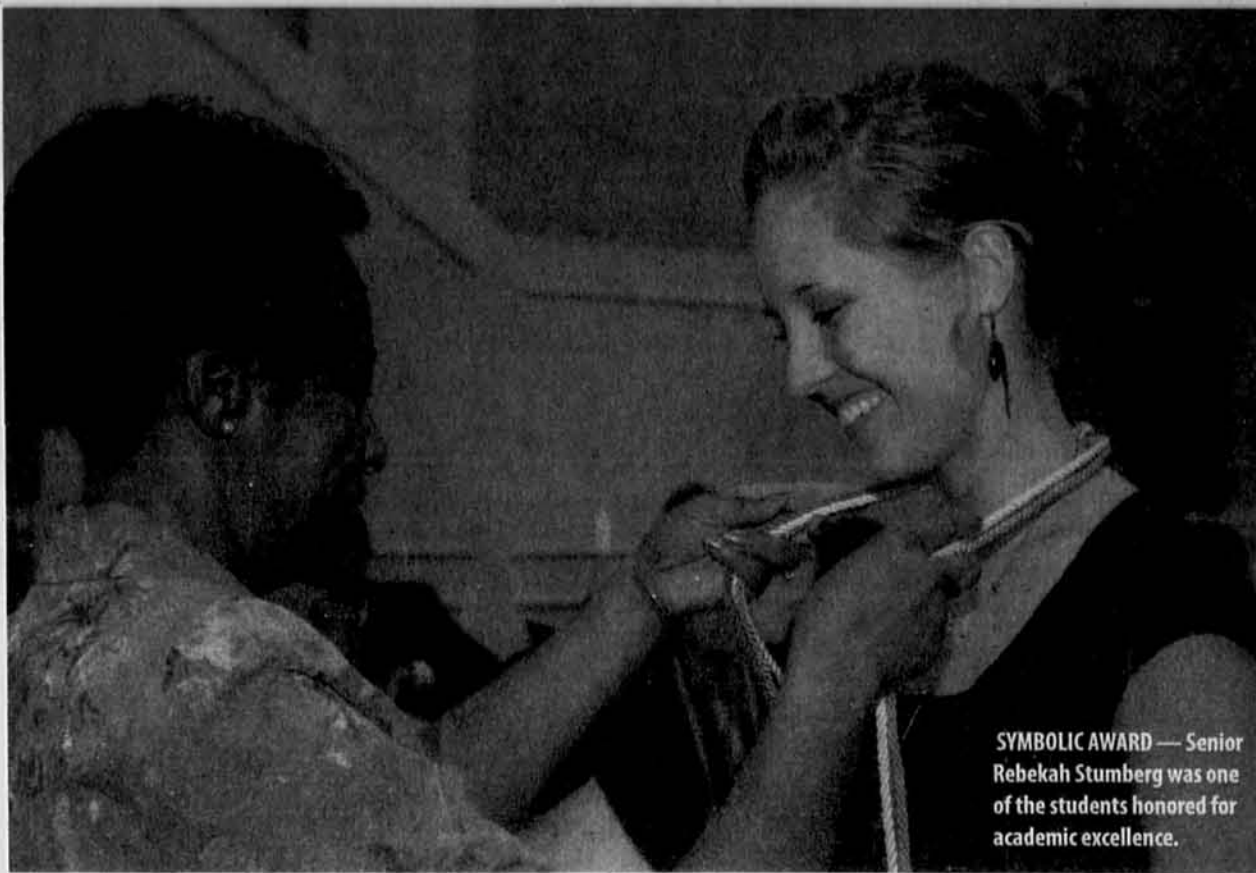
2 Liberty's track team represents university at meets in Texas and North Carolina.

NEWS • A6

3 Info. on Dr. Ed Hindson's recovery from open-heart surgery is aided by prayers of students on Facebook.

LIFE • B5

4 Former Liberty student Judy Bowman will bicycle across the country this summer with her ministry



SYMBOLIC AWARD — Senior Rebekah Stumberg was one of the students honored for academic excellence.

BRETT HASTIE

Students honored for scholastic achievements

By Jennifer Schmidt
NEWS EDITOR

Fifty-four graduating seniors were recognized for maintaining a 3.5 GPA throughout their four years at Liberty University on Saturday evening. As members of Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD), the students were invited to a full-course meal in the Grand Lobby of DeMoss, where they were awarded certificates of merit along with honor cords to be worn for graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Frederick Volk, a faculty advisor of ALD, gave a challenge to the graduates, saying "every day we have to recognize our position relative to spiritual matters."

Volk spoke of the need to be "spiritually destitute" and to have an "interactive relationship with God."

"God has blessed you with intellect," Volk said. "You can give out of a deep pocket. What are you going to give? That's the question you have to answer."

Dr. Marilyn Gadomski noted that the students' personal achievements reflected well on individuals and the university.

Gadomski was also "thrilled" to announce that 171 students were initiated to ALD in 2005 and that 118 of them would be graduating from 21 different majors.

"You have made us very proud," said Gadomski. "This is an elite group.... The Lord has blessed you richly and has blessed us richly through you."

A crowd close to 100 applauded as the winners of the Maria Leonard Senior Book Award were announced. Fourteen graduating seniors were each honored for maintaining 4.0 GPAs throughout their courses of study, qualifying them for the award named in honor of ALD's founder, Matthew Berman, who was especially noted as the top recipient for his service as an ALD officer.

Naomi Rivera was named the Jo Anne Trow Scholarship Award Nominee, a privilege that will enter her as

Liberty's representative in the national competition, for her service as ALD co-historian.

"It emphasized strong excellence early in your academic career as opposed to your junior or senior year," Grubbs said of ALD's value to students. "It also allows friendship with people similarly minded."

Grubbs plans to attend medical school following his graduation in May.

"We teach them to serve the Liberty community and the surrounding community," Bessie Grayson, ALD administrative assistant, said.

In the past year, ALD has volunteered at the Jubilee Center and contributed funding to a missions trip. ALD is a cross-disciplinary, national honor society that promotes scholarship and leadership.

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SUMMER: Classes cost \$90 less per credit hour than traditional fall and spring semester classes

Continued from A1

Registration for these classes opened on Jan. 2, and "current students may view course listings by logging onto ASIST and changing the term to Summer Session 2008," according to the Course Offering/Dates Summer Session 2008 page on the Liberty University Web site.

According to the Web site, "your cost and availability of these courses will depend upon several factors, some which include the type of course you are taking."

With a wide variety of courses, many options are open to students, especially those planning to take multiple classes.

"Summer classes cost right about \$90 (per credit hour) less than a normal semester," Butler said.

Undergraduate students who live on campus also have the benefit of a price cut if they are taking upwards of seven credit hours over the summer.

According to the Web site, if they take more than seven hours, they only have to pay 100 percent of the tuition for the first six hours and half the usual amount for the remaining hours.

Also, students re-taking a course they failed during the school year only have to pay 50 percent of the tuition.

According to the Payment Procedures page of the Web site, "Full payment must be made through Student Accounts prior to May 1, 2008, in order to reserve your class seat."

Students with additional questions concerning payment procedures are invited to call the Student Service Center at (434) 592-5100.

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THOMAS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRBC, Liberty team up to "InnovateChurch"

By Dominique McKay
NEWS REPORTER

Jonathan Falwell, senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, is hoping to bring fresh ideas to today's church with the fall release of his latest book, "InnovateChurch: Eight Innovative ways to Lead and Grow the Church."

A compilation of advice from Falwell and some Liberty faculty members, "InnovateChurch" is based on an upcoming ministry conference and Web initiative of the same name.

The book's purpose is to aid the world's next generation of church leaders in the areas of leadership, worship, prayer, discipleship, culture, church planting, outreach and apologetics, according to its listing on Amazon.com.

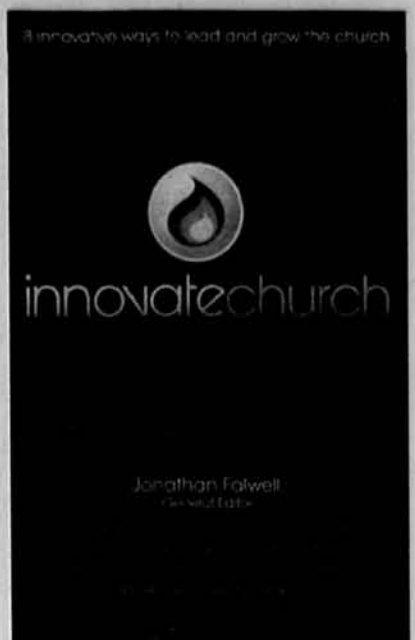
"There are now nearly 60 percent fewer churches per 10,000 Americans than there were in 1920," Dave Earley, director of the Center for Ministry Training, said.

Earley contributed with two detailed chapters discussing the issue of church planting.

"We are rapidly becoming a post-Christian culture (that) now views the church as irrelevant to their lives," Earley said.

Earley's first chapter lists 11 reasons why he believes North America needs more churches, and his second gives the readers a complete list of steps that existing churches can take to help plant new churches.

"The chapter concludes by asking the readers what they would like their legacy to be — surviving, maintaining the status quo, achieving success or doing something that is truly significant?" Earley said.



Mat Staver, dean of the School of Law, is also a contributor to the new book. In Staver's first chapter, he discusses how to effectively take a stand for Christ. Staver's second chapter addresses the controversial issue of churches actively participating in political campaigns and current legislations. In these two chapters, Staver hopes to eliminate the uncertainty and fear that many pastors and churches experience when engaging in political affairs.

InnovateChurch is set to be released this fall and can be pre-ordered online at Amazon.com. Other contributors include Charles Billingsley, Daniel Henderson, Rod Dempsey, David Wheeler and Ergun Caner.

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Correction



The main picture on B1 of last week's issue was taken by Alex Towers, not Vincent Breidis.

LIBERTY CHAMPION

25th Anniversary

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

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

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Students---Why drag all your stuff home this SUMMER?

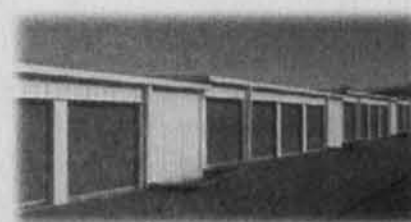
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Study finds there is no health benefit to drinking eight glasses of water a day

By Joyanna Gilmour
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Researchers have overturned the current scientific consensus that at least eight 8 oz. glasses of water, the approximate equivalent of one two-liter soda bottle, should be consumed daily for optimum health. Dr. Stanley Goldfarb and Dr. Dan Negoianu of the Renal, Electrolyte and Hypertension Division at the University of Pennsylvania-Philadelphia reviewed the clinical evidence for several water "myths" and came to a surprising conclusion.

"There is no clear evidence of benefit from drinking increased amounts of water," said Goldfarb and Negoianu.

Goldfarb and Negoianu's research focused on answering this question: "Do average, healthy individuals living in a temperate climate need to drink extra fluid — even when not thirsty — to maintain health?"

Their answer, "nobody knows," is not the most comforting response for health-conscious consumers attempting to navigate the sea of conflicting health claims.

The article highlighted the lack of evidence on either side for the current water recommendations.

The researchers do point out that residents of hot, dry climates or athletes must consume extra water to stay healthy.

The first claim the researchers investigated is whether or not extra water helps flush toxins from the body. While intuitively this seems to make sense, there is no clinical evidence that excess water intake improves the natural cleansing function of the kidneys.

The idea that drinking excess water "replenishes" internal organs and increases their efficiency was another claim investigated by the researchers. Again, this claim is entirely unsupported by clinical trials; rather, the limited studies done show that water retention is variable and closely related to how fast water is ingested.

Water, often touted as a calorie-free appetite suppressant, may or may not affect hunger and satiety. Various studies have often given conflicting results, although none have conclusively shown that drinking water will reduce caloric intake throughout the day, according to the article.

Finally, claims that water improves skin tone are similarly unsupported, say the researchers. While dehydration can decrease skin turgor, excess water does not seem to provide any benefit to the skin.

This news affects the bottled water industry, which has made a land-fall from the public perception that drinking at least 64 oz. of water daily is the healthy thing to do.

"The average person should consume two liters (approximately 67.6 oz.) of fluid a day, and bottled water helps many people achieve this, particularly when consumed out of the home," said the Bottled Water Information Office Web site, home of an organization representing major bottled water companies.

While this article may or may not affect the habits of water-bottle toting consumers, it may relieve the conscience of those who cannot stand the thought of chugging liquids all day long.

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How my cell phone makes me a better person

By Brandon Gallagher
NEWS REPORTER



I have a new cell phone, and it makes me a better person. I am a more efficient employee, I am a more organized student, I am a better friend, and I am a more loyal son.

It all started about a month ago. My old phone was on its last kick. The antenna was bent in more than one direction, which caused the phone to make it sound like I was in a desert sandstorm to anyone who tried to call me. Often times, I would have to repeat myself five times in a row, which I absolutely hate doing.

"I just told you!" I would say.

"What? I can't hear you. Are you in a sandstorm?" they would reply.

I would spiral out of control at these moments, wanting to throw my phone as hard as I possibly could at the wall, shattering it into a thousand pieces, showing my dominion over the small plastic electronic device that had provided me with so much joy and conversational pleasure for over two years.

I fantasized about jumping up and down on the broken pieces of screen and battery pack, grinding the small pieces into the carpet and then dousing them with lighter fluid and setting them ablaze. I realized this would cause way too many consequences for me in real life, so I decided I would just get in my car and drive to my local cell phone store and buy a phone that worked.

I walked into the store. It was devoid of any other customers, so I made my way to the sales associate that I had estimated might have the best person-

ality and told him I was looking for a new phone. I realized I had overestimated his personality after 1.2 seconds, the amount of time it took the guy to yawn before standing up from his desk chair and laboriously begin to assist me. I ignored his suggestions and politely told him which phone I would be buying. He told me I had made an excellent selection and that he had the same model.

This is not just a phone. No, this is a magical phone. It has a slide-out keyboard so that I can text message easier. It has a Wi-Fi connection so I can browse the Internet instead of paying attention at church, work, school, etc. It has a camera and a video camera, so if anything ever happens and I want a low-quality digital reminder of a said

off buying a phone that only makes calls and keeps time. Did I mention my new phone also makes calls and keeps time? Well, it does. I have the forecast, too.

Anyway, I call people more now. They don't have to ask me to repeat myself as much, so that whole conversation experience is far more enjoyable, as far as I am concerned. I call my family more, which makes me a better son, brother and grandson. I keep the schedule at work on my phone in PDF form so anyone can call me at anytime and get their schedules. I set reminders for myself about when assignments are due and when deadlines are up, which makes me a better student. I still do not get anything turned in on time, but I do feel extra bad for not doing it since I am completely aware of the deadlines.

"It all started about a month ago. My old phone was on its last kick. The antenna was bent in more than one direction, which caused the phone to make it sound like I was in a desert during a sandstorm to anyone who tried to call me."

memorable occurrence, I can have one. I can set appointments up, record voice memos, open PDF files, make grilled cheese sandwiches, send e-mails, keep tabs on my numerous girlfriends (not really), play MP3s, watch videos from YouTube, correct minor vision problems, keep updated sports scores, play solitaire and create Word, Power Point and Excel documents.

The reason it makes me a better person is quite simple. I feel so obligated to use my phone for so many things because the phone can do those things, and it was very expensive. If I don't find a way to integrate my phone into as many different areas of my life as I possibly can, I would have been better

To make a long story longer, I just want to let everyone who is thinking about buying a new phone with a bunch of new features on it a bit of advice.

It is worth every penny, but make sure you get the insurance, because it costs a lot of money to replace these phones, and when these phones sink to the bottom of the toilet, they aren't just going to dry out and magically work again like your old Motorola did.

They aren't that kind of magic phone.

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Melvin: Astronaut returns to his hometown

Continued from A1

Melvin studied and landed his inspiring job through a series of providential circumstances.

Two hamstring injuries ended his short NFL career, which included preseason games for the Detroit Lions in 1986 and training camp with the Dallas Cowboys in 1987. Melvin left Dallas to complete his master's degree in material science engineering at the University of Virginia.

Prior to the NFL draft, Melvin was an All-American receiver for the University of Richmond. He explained he was almost not recruited due to a missed pass in high school.

At the end of his senior homecoming game against Rustburg, a recruiter from the University of Richmond walked away from the game after he muffed a catch.

Fortunately, in the next play, Melvin caught the pass, and at the noise of the crowd, the recruiter turned to see Melvin in the end zone with the ball.

While Melvin's schedule is pretty packed during this visit to his hometown, Storm hopes to bring Melvin back to Heritage again.

"The plan is to see when his schedule is a little less hectic, maybe a fall football game," Storm said.

Foster also wants to see Melvin return "to talk to young people whose only vision is today."

Melvin's family was able to watch the launch in Florida in February and also threw Melvin a surprise birthday party on Feb. 15, while he was in space.

"We went down to NASA Langley and we had a video conference (with) a cake (and) we lit a candle," Cathy Clarke, Melvin's older sister, said.

The event was a surprise because Melvin expected his family to be in Lynchburg, where communication was limited to audio, but Langley allowed for video conferencing.

Throughout convocation, Melvin acknowledged the importance of family and being role

"I wish I were a poet so I could describe it.... You see how fragile our planet is but also that there are no borders."

"After such horrific failure, I had two coaches that believed in me," Melvin said about the first missed pass.

He encouraged Liberty students to remember that people similarly believe in them.

Another person who believed in Melvin was Mark Storm, the current athletic director for Melvin's alma mater, Heritage High School, and the tennis coach and an assistant football coach while Melvin was in high school.

"He had a tremendous career, academically and athletically," Storm said.

Melvin's chemistry teacher at Heritage, Cornelia Campbell, described Melvin as having "all the attributes of a young Christian man" while in high school.

"He wasn't a nerd by any means," Campbell said.

Heritage remains supportive of Melvin. When Atlantis launched in February, the students and faculty gathered in the school's media center to watch Melvin's venture into space.

Storm believes that Melvin's story will remind and inspire students to "challenge yourself to do your best in your schoolwork — don't be mediocre."

models rather than heroes.

"It is very important that you have someone you aspire to be," Melvin said.

Melvin began his speech by requesting a moment of silence in honor of the Space Shuttle Columbia. The STS-122 crew left six days after the five-year anniversary of the Space Shuttle Columbia's fatal re-entry over Texas in 2003.

Melvin believes that the best way to respect their legacy is to continue to pursue the cause for which they gave their lives.

"The biggest tragedy would be if we don't continue to explore," Melvin said.

Despite the potential danger that space travel brings, Melvin's family was calm during his trip.

"I wasn't nervous. We were very trusting and believing that God was going to take care of him," Grace Melvin, his mother, said.

Clarke agreed. "We had a confidence that it was God's perfect will and God's timing. We had a peace inside and that made a difference."

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opinion.

"Chuck Norris does not sleep. He waits."

ChuckNorrisFacts.com



By Jen Slothower
OOPY EDITOR

A recent political cartoon showed Ralph Nader standing in his living room, hair askew, with a rumpled bathrobe draped over his gaunt frame and bunny slippers. A Nader campaign button hung on his lapel. Holding out a lukewarm cup of joe, he addressed the members of his living room — two cats, a sleeping dog and a fish — asking, "So, who wants to be my vice president?"

As much as the media wants to count Nader out of the presidential race, he is back for another year.

His involvement has been enough to whip the Democrats into a fervor as memories return from the 2000 election, when many thought Al Gore lost Florida — and the election — because Democratic voters swung to Nader.

Nader, age 74, used to be known as the leader of movements involving consumers and public interest. Now, he is more famous as the perennial presidential candidate new voters like to toss their votes at just for kicks and a few diehard principled citizens still look to for his kind of change.

Nader enters the political fray as more of a rogue now, still championing causes but certainly unlikely to garner enough votes to make anything happen. What he has succeeded at, however — year after year — is calling attention to the candidates whose two parties hold the U.S. in a stranglehold for campaign choices and finances.

A Time reporter asked Nader if he was a spoiler (as the Democrats allege) in a February 26 interview.

"Now, wait a minute," Nader answered, "that is a politically bigoted word. The two parties have spoiled this country. They have spoiled the electoral process. I mean, look at Florida, look at Ohio. They have spoiled the political process, made it very difficult for candidates who can't raise the cash to move in and sustain themselves. They have spoiled our government."

Advocacy for the poor and disadvantaged of America occupies most of Nader's candidacy, from health care to poverty to pollution, according to a March 24 Newsweek article. Nader also wants to crack down on the military budget and cut "corporate crime, power and abuse," according to Time.

What Nader is mostly running for, however, is to give Americans a choice. He calls for "freedom, diversity, choice inside the electoral arena" where the populace will not pump funds into only two parties, according to Time.

"One metaphor for (my) campaign could be the tugboat campaign, pushing candidates toward the harbor of people and away from the harbor of giant corporations," he said in Time.

Whether or not Nader wins the election has never been the question. He runs for the consumer, the common man, the wanting — with hopes that those elected will take notice and implement some of his ideals into their own policies.

Some have suggested that Nader and Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama share some of the same ideas, but Nader says that although Obama may say the right things, his track record in the Senate did not show enough initiative to implement needed changes.

"The word is not the deed," Nader said. "Fortunately, I have a record full of deeds, so it's not just rhetoric."

Spoiler, tugboat or viable candidate — America's biggest third popular candidate is back until November.

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Chuck Norris: Action hero, athlete, political figure and commencement speaker

By Caleb McAllister
OPINION WRITER

Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. announced in the Wednesday convocation following spring break that Chuck Norris had been selected as the speaker for Liberty University's commencement ceremonies this May. The announcement was widely greeted with applause on the part of the student body. Some students, however, are expressing consternation at the decision to invite Norris rather than a more traditional speaker from the fields of religion, academia or politics.

Naturally, the announcement of Norris's selection as Liberty's commencement speaker unleashed a storm of discussion and debate. As always, this led to the creation of corresponding Facebook groups like "I Bet Chuck Norris Didn't Deliver Your School's Commencement Address," "Thanks, Chuck Norris, You've Made a Mockery of My College Graduation!", "We Like Chuck Norris, but not for a Graduation Speaker!" and "We're glad Chuck Norris is Speaking at Graduation!". These groups have hosted lively discussion, to say the least. Even Falwell weighed in on one group.

"We have had plenty of political figures and religious leaders bring Liberty Commencement addresses, but we must remember that Liberty is committed to placing graduates in every profession to make a positive difference in the world," he wrote. "That includes the entertainment industry.... There are so few conservative Christians in entertainment. I believe we need to recognize, honor and hear from those who have been successful in swimming against the tide."

Norris — who became popular as a world karate champion, then as

an action hero in films and TV — became a political figure recently as he campaigned for presidential candidate Mike Huckabee.

More than one episode of "Walker, Texas Ranger," the TV show for which he became famous, featured explicit gospel messages. He regularly writes insightful, intelligent articles for TownHall.com and WorldNetDaily.com defending conservative positions on a wide variety of topics. His Web site links to a variety of different Christian ministries.

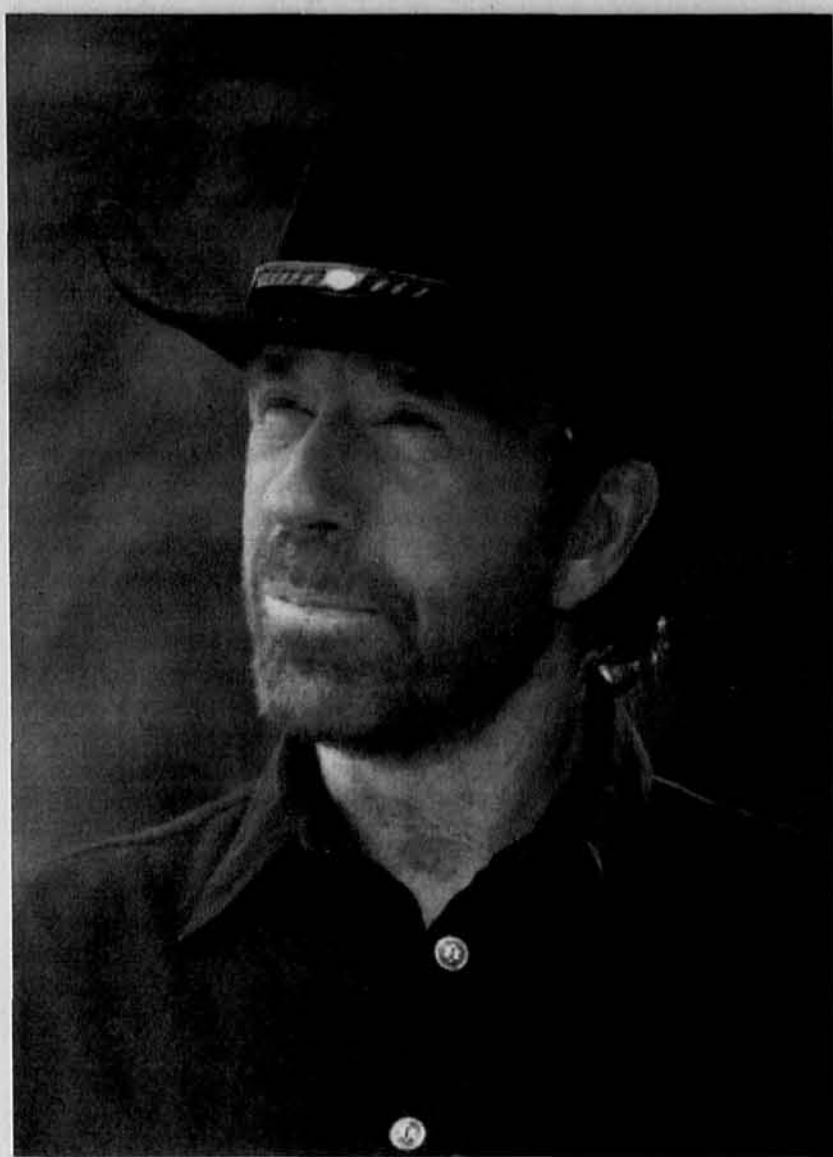
In short, he is far more than just an action star. He is a committed Christian man who holds unswerving positions that parallel those of this university and its students.

After achieving tremendous success in the areas of athletics and acting, he has continued to work for and advocate a variety of Christian and conservative causes. Huckabee's candidacy was only the most recent and high profile of these causes.

Students can be, and have been, taught and inspired by the well-known preachers, politicians and so forth who have spoken at Liberty's commencement ceremonies in the past and regularly appear in convocation.

However, a vocal few among the student body seem to believe that they have somehow been insulted by the selection of an athlete and actor for this year's speaker. These students should remember that the purpose of a commencement speaker is to inspire the graduating class and to impart a few words of wisdom as they embark on their post-collegiate careers.

Specifically, at Liberty, the speaker's purpose is to tailor these words of



wisdom in such a way that they aid the graduates in serving God throughout their lives with whatever skills and opportunities God gives them. Norris's witness and influence for his savior should testify to that. His dedication to

his faith — if nothing else — gives him the credentials to be Liberty's graduation speaker.

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Fight the urge to upgrade XP still trumps Vista in many ways

By Charlie Goss
OPINION WRITER

Every few years, Microsoft decides it has had enough with the status quo and releases another version of Windows and Office for the public to buy. This time it is Windows Vista and Office 2007. I have had Windows XP and Office 2003, now apparently defunct, for three years, and I am just fine with what I have. I should not have to upgrade to Vista and 2007 (even my computer shudders at the thought), and I plan never to do so. If you have XP and 2003, you shouldn't upgrade, either.

The first reason is the classic "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" motto. Here is a spin-off: "If it ain't out-dated, don't make a flashy upgrade that basically works the same."

In theory, there is nothing wrong with releasing constant updates. After all, updates mean solutions to problems (arguably problems Microsoft itself has created). But there is a difference between adding arms and legs to the current model and switching to a whole new model altogether.

The second reason I refuse to upgrade to Vista is found in why we buy this software in the first place. XP and Vista are operating systems. Without them, your computer cannot run. Okay, XP qualifies. XP allows me to cruise the Internet, play games and look at digital pictures. Vista does all of this, too. But there is nothing groundbreaking and new that Vista offers as an operating system. My point is that we buy an operating system for certain jobs, and XP does those jobs just fine.

An article on the Web site PC World gives some reasons to switch to Vista. Among them are a shiny new interface, improved security, better wireless networking and new software gadgets like calendars and weather displays. Microsoft had to throw in something to merit the upgrade. None of these upgrades, however, are sufficient for me to switch to Vista. Microsoft could easily have implemented most of these on Windows XP through downloadable updates, especially adding improved security and software gadgets.

On the flip side, another PC World article suggests not investing in Vista. Some of the reasons are that Vista is incomplete (with service packs on the way) and demanding of memory (it requires one gigabyte of system memory to run at its best, as opposed to 128 megabytes for XP). That means if your computer is not exactly cutting edge, it may run slower with Vista than with XP. According to this article, XP is not an obsolete operating system by any means.

On its Web site, Microsoft gives "100 Reasons You'll Be Speechless" when seeing (let alone using) Vista for the first time. One of these reasons is the new "translucent glass-like menu bars that let you see behind your application window." Fancy that. There's also safer Internet browsing and digital ink input and handwriting. However, reason number 23 literally takes the cake: "Because it's like a digital candy store." In other words, Vista has all the entertainment possibilities anyone would ever need.

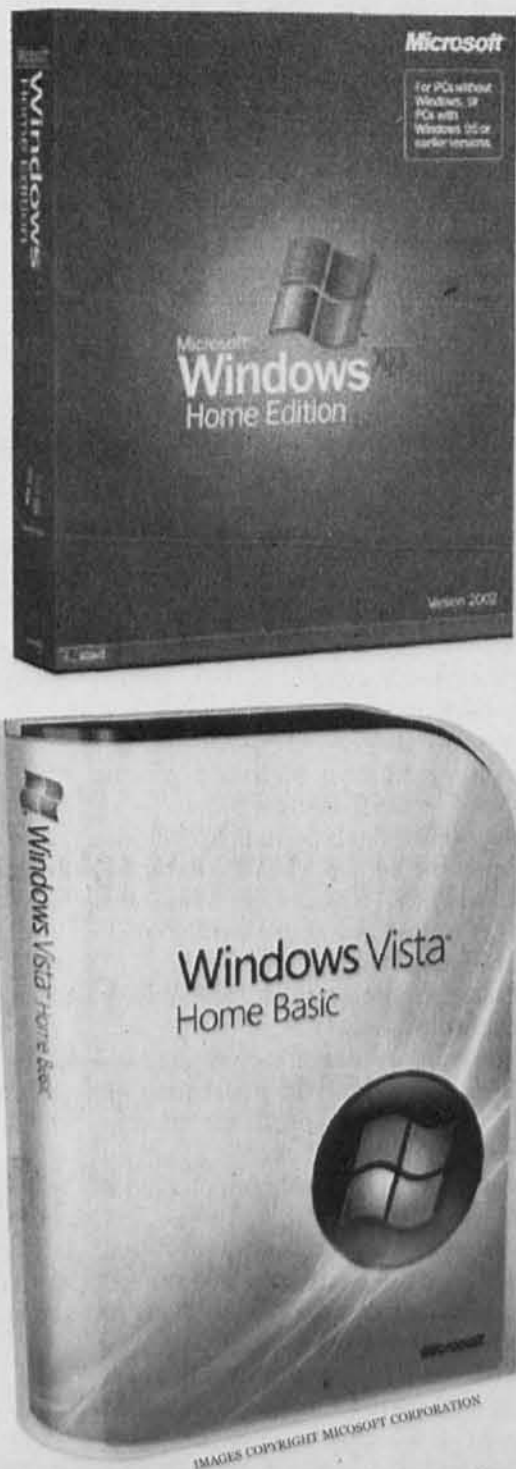
Office 2003 and 2007 allow you to word process, view spreadsheets, make slide presentations and more. Office 2003 does all of these things fine enough. So, there is no need to upgrade to 2007 following this logic.

But Microsoft has to make money, even if one of its products is superior. So, it implemented the ribbon. The ribbon, hailed as part of the genius of 2007's new design, is basically a rearrangement of various icons like copy and paste. It does away with the oh-so-cumbersome and horrible menu lists like edit and insert. Worse yet, only those who know a computer programming language like C++ can customize the ribbon. Microsoft has shunned 2003 for good. I feel rebellious keeping 2003.

At any rate, Microsoft could not gift wrap Office 2007 with the Ribbon pretty enough for me to want it.

(This editorial was brought to you by Word 2003.)

Contact Charlie Goss at
csgoss@liberty.edu.



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FIRSTHAND TRAINING — Students were able to practice new skills in simulated jungle camp.

Photo: Facebook

JUNGLE: Students braved the 'wild'

Continued from A1

Senior Hannah Watson could not even recognize the missionaries who were in character when she first entered the mock village. Upon entering the camp, Watson was immediately engaged by a boisterous Yanomamo woman who was not familiar with "personal space."

"(The missionaries) are so good at getting into character and playing the part," Watson said.

The missionary's portrayal of a loud, in-your-face native was consistent with the Yanomamo people, who tend to be very outspoken. Watson also worked with a missionary acting as a Joti, who are a more laid-back and quiet culture.

"(The Joti and the Yanomamo) are about as opposite as opposite can be," she said.

"It's amazing how real it seems," said Liberty Professor and NTM mobilizer Laurie Schweinsberg. "Jungle Camp" is a good opportunity to learn how to practically do missions."

In addition to their class time and practice sessions, the students participated in extracurricular activities. Skeeet shooting, canoeing and a seven-mile hike were just some of the practical adventures the students experienced. They also learned how to make a "mumu," a common feasting practice in Papua New Guinea where food is wrapped in banana leaves and is cooked in the ground throughout the day.

Many of the activities were designed to teach students how to survive in the jungle or to build teamwork skills, such as a giant game of human foosball.

Jungle Camp has been running for several years although Liberty students first visited the NTM facility in August 2007. During that time, the students were able to live in huts similar to those that might be found in the jungles. Over spring break the students stayed in regular dormitories due to cold weather.

Although they did not get to live in the huts, Schweinsberg said the students had plenty of exposure to authentic missionary life, including taking baths in the river.

"The class took the whole field of missions and broke it down so it just seemed like a regular job done by regular people," senior Ethan Crowder said.

Yarborough said that the best part of the whole course was "the practicality of it."

In addition to valuable information, the missionaries took a special interest in each of the students' lives.

"It doesn't feel like a class. It feels more like a home," Watson said.

"The missionaries are very interested in who you are."

Senior Tracey Cooter, who has gone to China twice, said that Jungle Camp was an appropriate capstone to his time at Liberty.

"The amount of information given to you to prepare for your journey is just unbelievable. It will totally open your eyes," Cooter said.

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ABUSE: Awareness Week will run April 14 to 18

Continued from A1

"It can save kids—that's our hope," Lodge said of her plans for the program, which is designed to teach 7 to 17-year-olds how to set goals and gain leadership experience.

"We already have one 11-year-old signed up and ready to go," Lodge said, noting that the only current hindrance is lack of funding.

Donations are also critical in helping the YWCA provide necessary counseling to students that are referred to the center.

"Counseling is by far the greatest need," Lodge said, who splits her time between direct work with the children and acting as the YWCA's business development manager.

Lodge described children who had experienced counseling as "more confident, less aggressive, better in school — their whole being evolves."

In addition to raising money, Child Abuse Awareness Week is designed to inform students of the extent and brutality of domestic violence. Lodge explained that Resident Assistants will be given stories of children who have suffered domestic abuse to read in hall meetings held on Tuesday, April 15.

Throughout the week, students will also be

invited to write notes of encouragement to children who have suffered from domestic abuse. The notes will be distributed not only at Lynchburg's local YWCA but also to other groups in the state and the rest of the country as well.

Lodge hopes that students will come to hear Theresa Jones speak on Wednesday, April 16. Having suffered abuse at the age of 8, Jones speaks with a voice of experience and is now active with various relief agencies in New York City.

"I would encourage anyone who knows they are going to work with children to come," Lodge said, specifically noting the value Jones' discussion will carry for family and consumer sciences, counseling, education and youth ministries majors.

"Speak up and take a stand," Lodge said. "Five or 10 years from now students will be parents. They could be the advocates or the abusers."

One third of Lynchburg's YWCA funding comes from donors. For more information on provided services or volunteer opportunities, call (434) 328-1041.

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exodus

Exodus brings fresh sound with new CD

By Mitchell Malcheff
NEWS REPORTER

Exodus will be releasing the group's third CD, entitled "Give Love Away," in May.

Featuring 12 songs performed by the members of Exodus, the CD has nine songs in addition to three that were previously released on the "Break Free" EP. Keyboard player Travis Doucette was involved in writing eight of the songs and says he is proud of what the band has accomplished.

"It really is something monumental for the school, because we've never had an album that is a majority of original compositions," Doucette said. "That has never existed at Liberty University."

A senior worship and music studies major, Doucette believes that Exodus' project should become the rule at Liberty rather than the exception.

"We are the largest Christian university in the world. Why are we not writing and singing our own songs?" Doucette said. "As great as the Tomlin and the United and the Hillsong songs are, I'm convinced the talent is on campus."

The project title — "Give Love Away" — is the running theme throughout, according

to bassist Justin Morgan. It puts words to what Christ has been doing in the hearts of band members.

"That 'Give Love Away,' is the main call and cry of the album — this call to serve others, to serve the poor, to be there for the needy," Morgan said. "We are the light of the world, we are the revolution, we hold the solution."

Exodus has teamed up with Charles Billingsley this semester as a part of the E-Women's Conference. The CD, which the band began recording in January, had to be stored in between the band's concert dates, which usually occupy three weekends out of every month.

Exodus will hit the road towards California this summer to lead worship at Hume Lake, the largest Christian camp in the nation.

"It brings in about 1,000 kids a week, so well be exposed to 10,000 kids this summer," Morgan said.

Morgan and Doucette cited musicians like Muse, U2 and John Mayer as some of their favorite artists.

Although the record is worship-oriented, Morgan and Doucette said that the influence of those artists infuses the album with a pop flavor.

"It is definitely a pop album. It's really accessible; it's really singable. There are a lot of great rock-pop moments in it," Doucette said.

Despite each of the band member's long-term involvement with music, Morgan said that only two or three members of the group are entertaining thoughts of continuing their musical careers past college. Doucette believes that knowing they only have a few years to minister affects the band's approach to ministry.

"The Lord is going to work no matter what. We just want to take the small influence that we have in Exodus and use our talents to bless and encourage other people," he said.

Exodus is made up of senior Doucette on keyboards, junior Morgan on bass guitar, junior Andrew Allers on electric guitar, senior Drew Miller on vocals and guitar, junior Jacob Allen on drums and sophomore Tyson Bowling as sound engineer.

"Give Love Away" will be available on iTunes and in the campus bookstore for \$15. For more information on the band, visit www.myspace.com/exodusband or the Facebook group "Exodus."

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmicheff@liberty.edu.



Group: Pray for Dr. Hindson
Network: Liberty
Size: 2,242 members
Type: Common interest - Beliefs & Causes
Note: 2 Wall Posts
Matches: Name and Description

View Group
Join Group

Dr. Hindson recovering from open-heart surgery

By Mattison Brooks
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University students

have demonstrated their commitment to community-based faith and prayer with a Facebook group "Pray for Dr. Hindson," started by former Liberty student and current staff member Karen Young. The group has been regularly updating students on Dr. Hindson's condition following his open-heart surgery on Monday, Feb. 25.

Young, who graduated from Liberty in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in psychology, began the group as a response to the complications that developed after Hindson's initial surgery.

"I was surprised that there wasn't a group already," Young said. "After the complications, I decided to check out if there was a group, and if there wasn't, I would create one. I went with whatever information I had at hand, and then I just kept updating from there."

The group has reached over 2,200 members, with many of the members leaving several prayer requests and words of encouragement for the families affected by the situation. The

group consists of students, staff, faculty, alumni and many more who have interacted with Hindson at Liberty.

"The response has been great," Young said. "Lots of people have been sending me private messages saying, 'Keep up the good work.' Some are alumni, some are students, and there have been one or two teachers."

Young, who is a full-time staff member at Liberty, also deals with prayer requests in her department. She has direct access to updates on Hindson's condition through a secretary on her staff. Young also noted that while the response from the student body has been great, she hopes students can find other ways to help with the situation.

"I think it would be great if students were to create their own ways of how to collectively pray for Dr. Hindson," Young said. "One student had an idea to create a card that everyone could sign, and I thought that was an amazing idea."

Andy Barrick, director of alumni affairs at Liberty, commented on how the outpouring of responses for Hindson are really a testament to his time at Liberty.

"I just know how much Dr. Hindson loves teaching the students," Barrick said. "He loves the students, and he commits to me all the time how wonderful they are. I know his knowledge of the students praying for him provides him with a source of strength. Our prayer for him is that he keeps teaching, and I know that is his passion and his desire, too."

According to Barrick, the Hindson and Barrick families visit him at the hospital every day, with Hindson's wife sometimes visiting two to three times a day. Barrick also said that during such times, their faith in God keeps the family moving forward and that all their hopes and prayers are for a full recovery. However, Barrick acknowledged another side to this part of their lives.

"We're claiming — by faith — total healing," Young said. "But God's plan is much higher than ours. It's tough, but you fall into the arms of the Lord, and he gives you strength. We live in a fallen world, and it's a trial."

Contact Mattison Brooks at embrooks@liberty.edu.

Epic proportions: Liberty student publishes adventure novel

By Mitchell Malcheff
NEWS REPORTER

Junior Justin Morgan has written a full-length novel that is set to be distributed on April 15.

Morgan describes the novel, titled "Deep Below the Ocean," as a tall tale of sorts.

"It's a very simple story," Morgan said. "It has an element of fairy-tale and fantasy. It almost reads like a bedtime story."

The idea for the book sprung from a song of the same title that Morgan wrote when he was in high school. The basic synopsis of the book came from the song's description of a sailor who spent his lifetime searching for treasure. Morgan said that the motivation to write the book stemmed from having extra time on his hands.

"It was a project for fun, because I was poor and bored. It was a great way to use my imagination and to express

some of the things I value in life," Morgan said.

The native North Carolinian came to Liberty from Nashville where he had worked for a few years after high school. About one-third of the book was finished when Morgan started college, and he completed it during the spring of his freshman year. Morgan said that the writing process took about six months and the editing added another five. A friend from math class, Sheila Mulhern, aided Morgan in the editing process.

Morgan said that the hardest part of the process was putting the finishing touches on the story.

"It felt like it was never going to end, night after night, sitting in my dorm cooped up like a hermit," Morgan said. "It was hard."

Morgan originally planned to self-publish the book and purchased an ISBN number. But after getting the ISBN, Morgan received a surprise

call from Mira Publishing in St. Louis, Mo., who offered to publish his book.

"I have some outside investors helping with costs of the production," Morgan said. "I will be receiving royalties from the sales, which may fluctuate depending on vending percentages."

Written in third person, "Deep Below the Ocean" follows a man in search of treasure near an island far out at sea. The man is searching for treasure to aid his country, which is at war and slowly deteriorating from poverty and famine. Morgan said that about three-fifths of the 180-page novel is diary entries from the man as he journeys in search of the treasure.

Although the book is finished, Morgan said that he had little idea of the enormity of what he was undertaking.

"I didn't know what I was doing at first. After I finished the first draft, I went back and changed a lot of things," Morgan said. "I just didn't know what I was getting into when I started. I had

to know the story inside and out, and there were a lot of factors that I didn't think of. It is a lot easier said than done."

Morgan listed classics like George Orwell's "1984," Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" and Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" as some of his favorite books because of their unique take on society.

Although Morgan is not sure if he will become a career author, he said that he will always be passionate about writing.

"I'm just learning as I go and hope that God brings opportunities along for me to use writing as a tool to glorify him," Morgan said.

"Deep Below the Ocean" will be sold at www.JustinKeithMorgan.com and in the campus bookstore beginning April 15.

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmicheff@liberty.edu.



Photo: Facebook

Trackin' the track team

Liberty track and field jumped their way around the country this weekend — literally.

SPORTS • B2

Practice makes perfect

Liberty's football team continued to prepare for its annual spring game on April 19 with another four practices last week.

SPORTS • B4



WHEELIN' AND DEALIN' — Sophomore pitcher Dana Wheeler recorded her fourth win of the season last Friday. Wheeler struck out four batters and allowed only five hits on the day.

Softball splits with JMU, takes two of three from Birmingham-Southern

By Miranda Fielder
SPORTS REPORTER

On April 2, the Lady Flames softball team split a doubleheader with the James Madison University (JMU) Lady Dukes in the second appearance at home.

After a grueling 11 innings, Lady Flames came out on top in the first game, looking on for a 5-4 win.

During the fourth inning, freshman Cassie Hendrix lined a single to left field and was brought home on senior Ashley Williams' home run over the left field fence.

"I'm a designated hitter and knew that I had to step it up," Williams said. "I knew I had to score some runs."

With the score tied 2-2, junior Beth Bennett came to the plate and belted the first pitch she saw over the center field fence to put the Lady Flames ahead 3-2. JMU tacked on two runs during the game to Liberty's one, sending the game into extra innings with the score tied 4-4.

In the bottom of the 11th inning, sophomore Jinae Jefferson reached on a fielder's choice, and freshman Leah Cosentino stepped into the batter's box and lined a game-winning line drive double to right center, scoring Jefferson to end the game.

In game two, the Lady Flames jumped out to an early 1-0 lead off Williams' RBI double.

However, JMU's bats came alive in the top of the third as Katie Spitzer took a Tiffani Smith delivery over the fence for a two-run shot, giving the Lady Dukes a 2-1 lead.

"I'm a designated hitter and knew that I had to step it up. I knew I had to score some runs."

SENIOR ASHLEY WILLIAMS

After Liberty tied things up in the bottom of the fourth inning on Cosentino's RBI single, Spitzer struck again, hitting a 3-2 offering from Smith into the gap in left-center. Spitzer came around to score on Courtney Simmons' single back through the middle. JMU would hold on for the 4-2 victory in game two.

On April 4, the Lady Flames faced Birmingham-Southern College Lady Panthers at home, kicking off the first conference game this season.

Freshman Elena Lampman went two-for-three at the plate while senior Shannon McKain hit a home run over the left field fence and Bennett had a double as the Lady Flames earned a 4-1 victory.

Sophomore pitcher Dana Wheeler scattered five hits over 6 1/3 innings of work, striking out four for her fourth win of the season.

The next game brought another win for the Lady Flames. Smith battled back from her sub-par performance against JMU just two days earlier and pitched seven complete innings of shut-out ball, allowing only three hits in the 4-0 victory.

Freshman Amber Depasquale had the first RBI of the afternoon in the

second inning, plating McKain with a base hit to left field. In the third inning, Williams cranked a solo home run to center field, giving the Lady Flames a 2-0 lead, which the team would not relinquish.

The victory also marked Head Coach Paul Wemore's 400th collegiate victory, making him the 80th coach to reach this level in the NCAA softball history.

April 6 was the final day the Lady Flames would face the Lady Panthers at the Liberty softball field. The Lady Flames' bats were sluggish at the beginning of the game, and Birmingham-Southern took advantage, scoring four runs within the first two innings.

Throughout the game, the Lady Flames peppered hits. Bennett doubled again down the left field line while Depasquale hit a solo home run to center in the fifth. In the last inning, the Lady Flames plated three runs and had five hits, but it proved to be too little, too late as Birmingham-Southern ran away with a 9-5 victory.

Wemore still feels that the Lady Flames are making improvements throughout the lineup and within the pitching staff.

See **SOFTBALL, B2**

Baseball rebounds from non-conference defeats

By Thomas Lourdeau
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty baseball team evened up its conference record over the weekend, taking two of three games from UNC-Asheville (0-9, 14-13, 11-4) over the weekend. The Flames came into Saturday's contest after losing four straight, including two rough-luck games against William & Mary and Norfolk State. Having already dropped the opener to Asheville in disappointing fashion, there was a sense of urgency surrounding the team despite it being only the second conference series.

In the second game on Saturday, Liberty outlasted Asheville 14-13 in extra innings. The Flames struck first as Erroll Hollinger reached base, advanced on a single and then found home thanks to two straight wild pitches by Asheville starter Michael Bogardt. Junior third baseman Cody Brown followed with a walk, and Garrett Young began his four-for-four day with a double into the right-center field gap, plating two more runs. However, the lead would not last long as the Bulldogs

came right back, scoring three runs of their own. Two Liberty walks led to two runs in the frame.

In the third inning, Brown hit an RBI single, scoring Hollinger, who had reached base via a walk earlier in the inning, to break the tie. In the fourth, Aaron Phillips ripped a single to left and then advanced to second on a pitching error before finally being brought home as Hollinger, who rifled a single of his own, giving the Flames a 5-3 lead.

Despite the deficit, however, UNC-Asheville was not about to go quietly. Taking advantage of a Liberty error while pounding out six hits, the Bulldogs batted around and took advantage of some control problems by Flames pitching. After three straight batters reached base, the Bulldogs scored two runs on consecutive RBI singles. A pair of RBI singles, a bases-loaded walk, and a two-run double followed before Liberty was able to stop the bleeding.

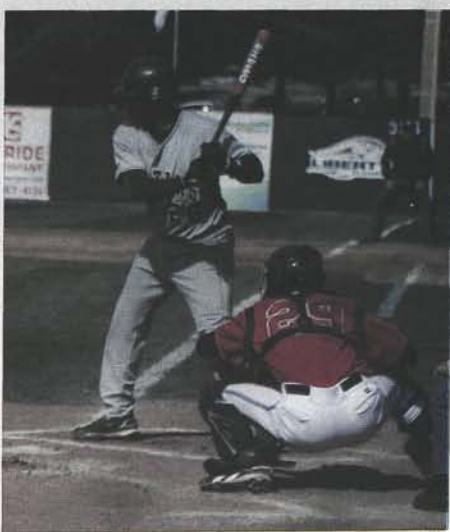
The Flames took their turn to respond in the back-and-forth contest as David Giammaresi laced a one-out double off the wall in right field

with the bases loaded, scoring two. Brown followed with a sacrifice fly, and Young laced one of his three hits on the afternoon for an RBI to put the score at 11-9. Young, however, was not done. With the bases loaded yet again for the Flames, he came to the plate and gave Liberty a two-run lead with one swing, crushing a pitch over the right field wall for a grand slam and his third home run of the year.

In the eighth, the Bulldogs answered with a long ball of their own as catcher Reed Keiser launched his ninth home run of the year, tying the game once again at 13. After a scoreless ninth inning, the Flames led off the top of the 10th with both Young and Brown reaching base after being hit by pitches.

One out later, with the bases loaded, junior Tim Rotola scored Brown as he grounded into a fielder's choice. Senior left hander Ryan Page pitched a scoreless bottom of the tenth, picking up the save as the Flames won 14-13.

See **BASEBALL, B3**



ANTICIPATION — Junior catcher Erroll Hollinger sits behind home plate, waiting for a pitch in Liberty's game against Norfolk State last Wednesday. The Flames lost to the Spartans but finished the week strong with two wins over UNC-Asheville.

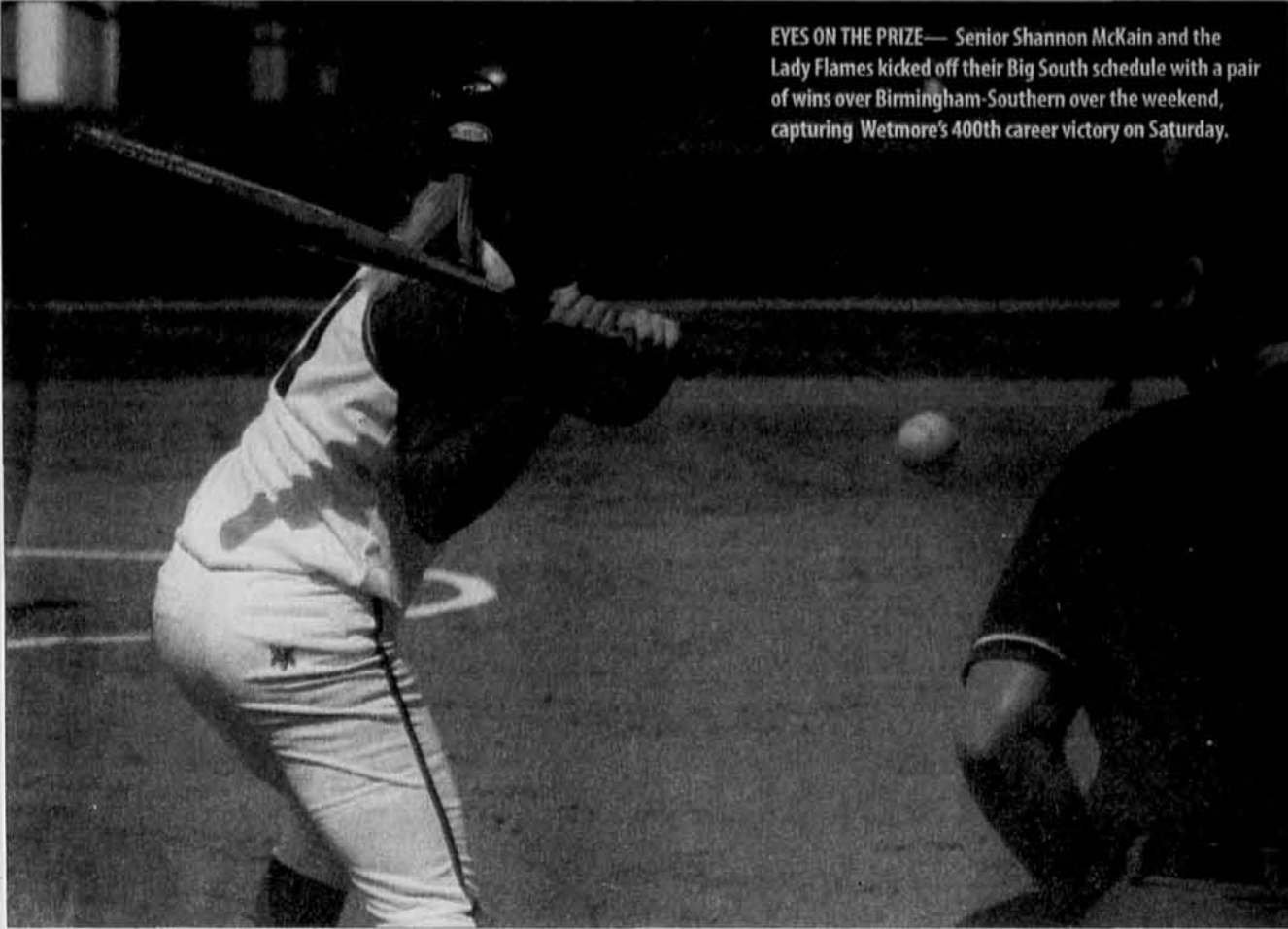
previous week in sports

5 TH	BASEBALL vs. UNC-Asheville	14-13	W
5 TH	W TENNIS vs. Radford	6-1	W
5 TH	SOFTBALL vs. Birmingham-Southern	9-5	L

4 TH	M TENNIS vs. Radford	6-1	L
4 TH	GOLF Ironwood Pirate Intercollegiate		2 ND

LIBERTYFLAMES.COM Get the latest scores

EYES ON THE PRIZE— Senior Shannon McKain and the Lady Flames kicked off their Big South schedule with a pair of wins over Birmingham-Southern over the weekend, capturing Wetmore's 400th career victory on Saturday.



NICK POOLE

SOFTBALL: No. 12 Tennessee and UVa highlight this week's schedule

Continued from B1

"It was a great way to start our conference play with two big wins on Friday," Wetmore said. "We got key shots from the bottom of our lineup and the long ball from seniors like (Ashley) Williams and (Shannon) McKain. (Dana) Wheeler continues to lead the staff from the mound, and it looks like (Tiffani) Smith is pitching with more confidence."

The Lady Flames will be trav-

eling to the University of Tennessee on April 8 for a two-game set against the No.12 team in the nation.

Following the doubleheader, Liberty returns home on April 9 to face the University of Virginia in another non-conference doubleheader.

Game time is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Contact Miranda Fielder at mdfielder@liberty.edu.

Liberty golfers finish fourth at Ironwood

By Will Luper
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty men's golf team finished fourth out of 15 teams at East Carolina's Ironwood Pirate Intercollegiate in Greenville, N.C.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be three rounds, but the second round was canceled due to inclement weather.

After Friday's play, Liberty found itself sitting in second place behind Newberry University thanks in large part to the fact that Liberty's worst score on the day was only two strokes over par. Senior Parker McCoy and junior Jay Calvo sat tied for eighth place at even par as Liberty's two best golfers.

"I was happy how we played today," coach Jeff Thomas said. "I think we left a little bit in the bag on Friday, but we came off the course, and we were in second place. It was a good feeling."

On Sunday, the Flames as a whole only scored four strokes higher than in the first round; however, the story of the tournament was the explosion from St. John's University. Coming in at 294 strokes on Friday, the Red Storm thundered into the lead as they dropped their second round score by 14 strokes, finishing at 278.

"St John's played really well," Thomas said. "They deserved to win this tournament."

The Flames did not play poorly, though.

Calvo and sophomore Nathan Schenz-Davis both finished in the top

10 for individual performances, finishing with 143 (+1) strokes through both rounds.

The ultimate goal remains the same as last week as the Flames keep their eyes on the Big South Tournament. They came into the weekend ranked third in the Big South.

"As Dave (Je) gets more consistent and Jay can get back to where he was playing before, it makes us really strong," Thomas said. "As those guys develop into top two guys, we will get better. That is what happened this weekend."

Calvo did not play last weekend at the Lacrosse Homes Collegiate, when

The ultimate goal remains the same as last week as the Flames keep their eyes on the Big South Tournament.

"Radford is ranked second in the Big South," Thomas said. "We were able to beat them. Winthrop is ranked fourth, right behind us, and we were able to beat them."

Thomas attributes his team's success to the fact that it is a deep team.

"We have seven or eight guys that are playing well right now," he said. "We have five guys that start, and there are three or four guys that we can put in the lineup at any point and shoot the same scores."

Positives to take away from the weekend, according to Thomas, are the strong play and development of the team as a whole.

the Flames finished second place out of 19 teams.

Thomas decided to give him a break just to gather himself and prepare for the rest of the season.

"He got a break last weekend," Thomas said. "He played well this weekend at one under. He has been one of our best players for the past two years."

Calvo will get a chance to help the Flames again this coming weekend when they travel to Raleigh, N.C., to participate in the Wolfpack Invitational hosted by N.C. State.

Contact Will Luper at wluper@liberty.edu.

Track and field turns heads in Texas and North Carolina

By David Hunt
SPORTS REPORTER

A vicious heave, a blistering middle-distance race and a remarkable show of endurance capped off a successful weekend for Liberty University track and field. The men and women split up over the weekend to cover ground — literally. While some athletes traveled to the Texas Relays for field action, others took to the Duke Relays and Murray Neely Invitational.

Liberty's great heave came from none other than senior Clendon Henderson, record-holder for both Liberty and the Big South Conference. Henderson tossed the shot put 61 feet, three inches, giving him the win. It was not the only event he would capture over the weeklong competition. Henderson also won the discus.

"Clendon is one of the best throwers in the country right now," senior Jarvis Jelen said. "He's throwing good."

Jelen did not have a bad day himself, although he competed halfway across the country at the Duke Relays. Jelen's 14-minute, 30 second finish in the 5,000-meter race was good for fifth while his teammate, sophomore Evans Kigen, took second in a hot-footed 14:16.

Redshirt sophomore Sam Chelenga won the race outright in 13:55.

"Our distance team did well," junior Jordan McDougal said. "I ran slow, though (14:42, seventh place)."

The Duke Relays were highlighted in many ways by senior Carol Jefferson's debut race, a swift performance in the 10,000-meter that showed just how much endurance she has in longer races. Jefferson grabbed the overall crown in 35:57, which put her near the top of those who have qualified for the ECAC Championships in May.

Jefferson's time was good enough to win the race by nearly a lap over Kerry Salzano of Stony Brook.

At the Murray Neely Invitational, junior Jamie Watson heated up the middle-distance crowd with a speedy 2:12 run in the 800-meter dash, good for first. The race was also Watson's first of the outdoor season and one of the fastest of her career, which previews things to come as the postseason approaches.

Two weeks remain before Liberty's track and field teams head to the Big South Conference meet, a competition that they have dominated over the past several years. Before that challenge, the teams must first travel to Lynchburg College to take part in the Lynchburg Track and Field Classic this weekend.

Contact David Hunt at dhunt@liberty.edu.

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BASEBALL BOX SCORES

Game 1: Friday, April 4

UNC-Asheville 9 (13-19, 1-3 BSC)

Liberty 0 (12-15, 1-3 BSC)

Score by Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
UNC-Asheville	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	9	10	1
Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB			
Negron, Kenneth 2B	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0			
Bussey, Tommy PH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Hollinger, Errol C	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0			
Thompson, Nathan C	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1			
Giammeresi, David 1B	3	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	3			
Brown, Cody 3B	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1			
Jefferson, Jeff RF	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0			
Young, Garrett DH	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Feeley, Joseph LF	3	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	2			
Rotola, Tim CF	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2			
Love, Jason PH	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
Phillips, Aaron SS	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	2			
Bream, Doug PH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Stokes, David P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0			
TOTALS	32	0	5	0	4	3	24	12	11			
Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF				
Stokes, David	6.0	9	9	3	1	2	29	30				
LaJole, Rusty	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3				
Ihnat, Grady	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	4	4				

Game 2: Saturday, April 5

Liberty 14 (13-15, 2-3 BSC)

UNC-Asheville 13 (13-20, 1-4 BSC)

Score by Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	H	E
Liberty	3	0	1	1	0	4	0	4	0	1	14	15	2
UNC-Asheville	3	0	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	13	15	2
Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB				
Negron, Kenneth 2B	5	2	1	0	0	0	2	6	0				
Hollinger, Errol C	5	3	4	1	1	0	8	1	0				
Giammeresi, David 1B	4	3	2	2	2	2	11	0	1				
Brown, Cody 3B	3	3	2	12	1	0	0	0	2				
Young, Garrett DH	5	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0				
Jefferson, Jeff RF	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1				
Feeley, Joseph LF	5	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	3				
Rotola, Tim CF	5	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1				
Phillips, Aaron SS	6	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	2				
TOTALS	44	14	15	13	6	3	30	11	10				
Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF					
Nicely, Clarence	3.0	6	7	6	2	5	15	19					
Umberger, Dustin	1.0	4	4	3	1	0	6	8					
Light, Tyler	4.0	3	2	2	0	1	16	17					
Page, Ryan	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	7	7					

Game 3: Sunday, April 6

Liberty 11 (14-15, 3-3 BSC)

UNC-Asheville 4 (13-21, 1-5 BSC)

Score by Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Liberty	3	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	11	17	3
UNC-Asheville	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	9	2
Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB			
Negron, Kenneth 2B	6	3	3	1	0	0	2	2	0			
Hollinger, Errol C	5	2	2	2	0	0	6	0	1			
Keller, P.K. RF	6	2	4	3	0	0	2	0	1			
Giammeresi, David 1B	4	1	2	0	2	0	10	0	1			
Young, Garrett DH	5	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	2			
Brown, Cody 3B	5	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0			
Jefferson, Jeff RF	5	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1			
Feeley, Joseph CF	4	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	1			
Phillips, Aaron SS	4	0	0	0	1	1	3	6	5			
TOTALS	30	1	3	1	3	3	27	9	5			
Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF				
Evans, Stephen	6.0	7	1	1	2	2	24	26				
Steinwedell, J.	1.0	1	2	0	0	2	4	6				
Wilson, Andrew	2.0	1	2	0	0	2	8	8				

Continued from B1

Liberty opened game three on Sunday with three runs in the first. This time, however, the Flames did not relinquish the lead to the Bulldogs, evening Liberty's conference record (3-3) thanks to an 11-4 win in the rubber match of the weekend series.

P.K. Keller picked up the game's first RBI, driving home Kenneth

Negron, who led off the game with a single.

Keller advanced to third on consecutive put-outs before being sent home on a throwing error by Asheville starter Taylor Wohlwend.

Cody Brown added an RBI single, and the Flames led 3-0.

In the fourth inning, with the Flames leading 4-1, Erroll Hollinger belted his fourth home run of the

season, plating himself and Negron to give the Flames a 6-1 lead. Liberty added four more runs in the fifth, including RBI singles by Feeley and Negron as well as a two-run double by Hollinger.

Asheville scored three more runs but was unable to overcome the deficit as Liberty starter Steven Evans allowed one run and seven hits, earning his first collegiate victory.

Liberty will look to continue its success when it squares off against James Madison at home on Tuesday, followed by a road game with the University of Virginia on Wednesday. The Flames will then conclude the week with a three-game series against conference foe Radford.

Contact Thomas Lourdeau at tlourdeau@liberty.edu.

Men's tennis suffers setback, Lady Flames improve to 10-3 with win over Radford

By Jeff Scott
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty men's and women's tennis team returned to action Friday after a week off due to a postponed match with High Point University. The men's team lost to a reigning Big South champion Radford University 6-1 while the women's team rode their eight-game winning streak to defeat Radford 6-1.

The Flames lost five of six singles matches in their match with Radford. The only singles win came from sophomore Juan Reyes in No. 6 singles action as he defeated Radford's Tyler Early 6-3, 6-4. Sophomore Rafael Riso lost a tight one in No. 5 singles against Radford's Paul Boslet. After losing the first set 6-4, he battled from behind to win 7-6 (1) and forced a third-set tiebreaker. In a back-and-forth exchange, Boslet bested Riso 10-7.

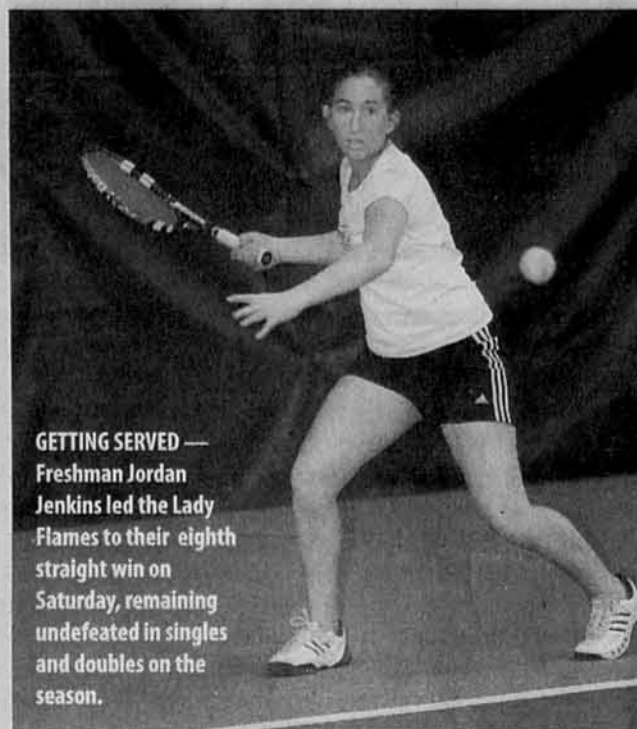
The Flames competed for the doubles point even though the Highlanders already laid claim to the singles point. Radford took the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles matches, but Reyes and sophomore Chad Simpson were victorious in No. 3 doubles action. They defeated the team of Early and Boslet 8-4. The loss leaves the Flames' record at 5-8.

The Lady Flames took all three doubles matches for the seventh time this year in a powerful fashion. The No. 1 doubles pair, freshman Jordan Jenkins and junior Ekaterina Kuznetsova, blasted Radford's Cassandra Price and Iva-

na Tomaic 8-1. The No. 2 doubles team of freshman Fabiana Gouveia and senior Martyna Hanusz posted another strong showing, winning their match against Camila Noldin and Ashton Downs 8-3. The No. 3 doubles score mirrored the No. 2 score, with an 8-3 win by the freshman duo of Hannah Fick and Stephanie Brown.

The Lady Flames only lost one match in singles action, going five-for-six and securing the singles point. Jenkins picked up her 13th dual win of the season, beating Tomaic 6-1, 7-6(5). Hanusz took the No. 2 singles spot with a win over the Lady Highlanders' Paige Lindsley 6-4, 6-3. Kuznetsova captured a victory in the No. 4 singles spot with a 6-3, 6-2 romp of Noldin. Gouveia only lost two games en route to her 6-2, 6-0 win over Alexandria Spector in No. 6 singles play. Brown also came away victorious with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Radford's Mirna Matic at No. 5 singles play. Liberty is now 2-1 in the Big South Conference with an overall record of 10-3.

Both the men's and women's tennis matches against Presbyterian were cancelled on Sunday due to inclement weather in the Lynchburg



GETTING SERVED — Freshman Jordan Jenkins led the Lady Flames to their eighth straight win on Saturday, remaining undefeated in singles and doubles on the season.

PHOTO PROVIDED

area. The Flames have had six matches either canceled or postponed due to weather hazards, and the Lady Flames have had five matches suspended. The next matchups for both teams are set for Friday at the Esbenshade-Hershey Tennis Center at Liberty, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

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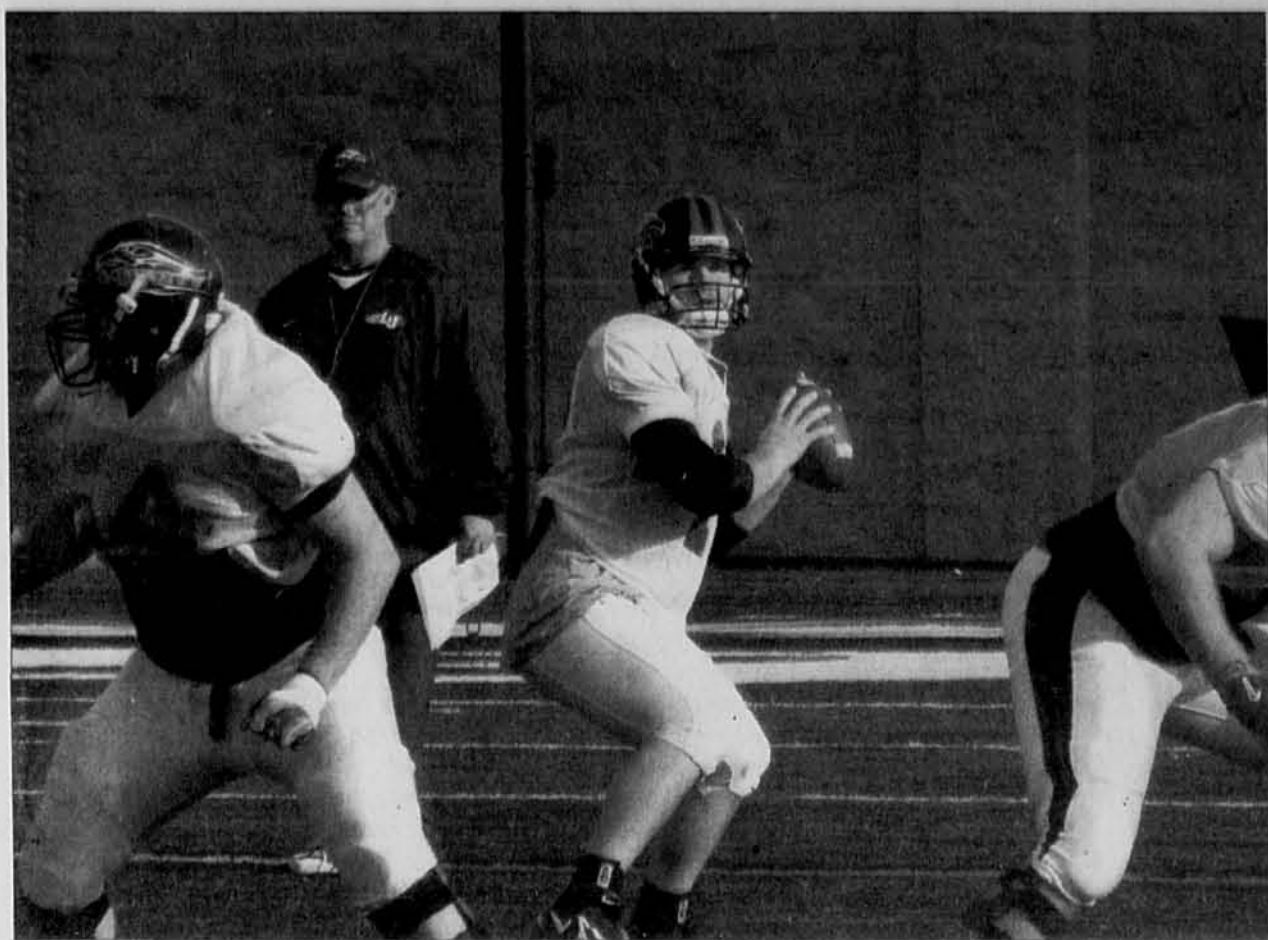
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Spring football practices go according to Rocco's plan



VINCENT BRIDIS

SPRING FLING — Senior quarterback Brock Smith looks downfield for an open receiver during one of Liberty's spring football practices.

By Eric Brown
SPORTS EDITOR

After three straight days of reviewing fundamentals and technique, the Liberty Flames football team geared up for another round of spring practices last Tuesday. In its second week of drilling, head coach Danny Rocco and his team practiced under sub-par weather conditions and experienced their first full-contact scrimmage of the spring season.

Rocco and his staff installed new plays Tuesday on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball, according to libertyflames.com. In addition to the new schemes, both units squared off in one-on-one tackling drills, with the white jerseys (offense) gaining the edge over their defensive counterparts in blue. At the end of practice, Rocco noted that he and his staff needed to make adjustments to the practice itinerary.

"We've got a lot of young players at

key positions, and we are asking them to learn a lot in a short amount of time," Rocco said, according to libertyflames.com. "We've got to help a few of our younger kids right now who are trying to develop. I'm going to take a step back tonight, review the video (Wednesday), and our staff will make some decisions for the future."

Thursday brought another challenging element for the Flames to endure — inclement weather. Temperatures decreased drastically at Williams

Stadium as rainfall steadily increased throughout the session. Eventually, the weather took its toll on Liberty's passers as incompletions began to mount during the 11-on-11 drills.

"I reminded the team that the very first game I coached here was in a monsoon," Rocco told libertyflames.com. "Ball security is critical in everything you do, whether it's the quarterback and center exchange, or the running back using two hands. I told the receiver that anytime on a night like tonight you have a chance to make a play downfield, they have to come up with the football."

For the first time during the spring season, one unit outshined the other during 11-on-11 drills. Friday proved to be a heyday for the defense as it picked off several passes from Liberty's hurlers in the session.

While the boys in blue did dominate the afternoon, the white jerseys ran through practice shorthanded. Senior starting center Mike Godsil, who is still recovering from off-season ankle surgery, sat out. Rocco also made the call to rest senior quarterback Brock Smith for the first half of practice as well.

Smith returned to a full day of drilling Saturday morning, leading the white jerseys in the team's first full-contact scrimmage. Unlike Friday's session, the offense outshone the defense in the scrimmage and the 11-on-11 drills.

Along with solid performances from all three of Liberty's passers, redshirt senior wideout Jonathan Crawford stood out among the receiving corps. Crawford caught numerous passes from Liberty's quarterbacks throughout the morning, including a diving catch, courtesy of a 40-yard pass from Smith.

The offense did not steal all of the glory.

Redshirt senior cornerback Kent Hicks also made himself known, intercepting a throw by Smith during the passing drills. Upon the start of the scrimmage, blue jerseys forced senior running back Rashad Jennings to cough up the ball seconds after catching a short pass.

Smith and junior backup quarterback Spencer Landis led the first- and second-string offense, respectively, on separate 70-yard drives, each resulting in a touchdown.

In the final part of the scrimmage, the defense stopped redshirt freshman quarterback Mike Brown and his band of white jerseys just one yard shy of the end zone, allowing the field goal unit to take the field.

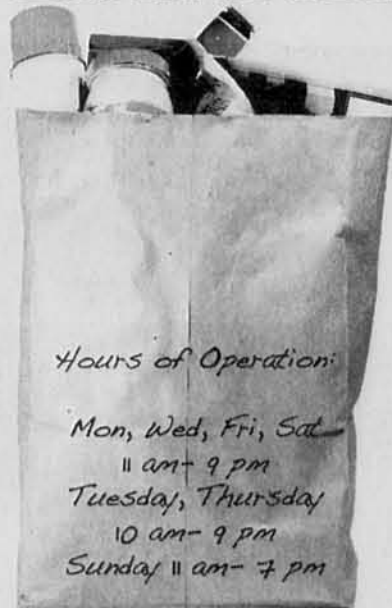
"Whereas (Friday) I felt that the defense really outplayed the offense (Saturday), the offense outplayed the defense in the scrimmage aspect of the practice," Rocco said in an interview.

"I thought defensively Kent Hicks had his best day of the spring. He was a little more active; he was around the ball, had a couple of interceptions and played more physical in the run game," Rocco added. "I thought offensively, Crawford had an outstanding day, putting together a great spring practice."

Now halfway through the spring season, the Flames will continue to drill and scrimmage for seven more days before competing in the team's annual spring game on April 19 at Williams Stadium. Game time is slated for 1 p.m.

Contact Eric Brown at
eqbrown@liberty.edu.

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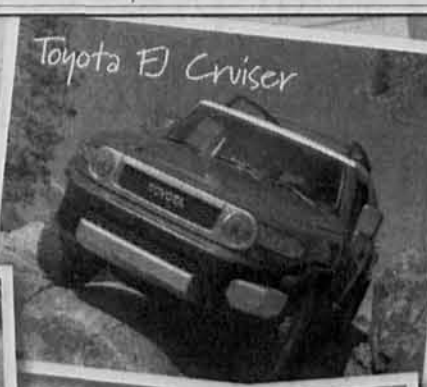
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Harry Golden

Liberty alumnus witnesses through riding bikes

RIDE, RAISE, REACH —
Judy Bowman started
the bicycling ministry
in 1990.



PHOTO PROVIDED

By Claire Melsi
LIFE! REPORTER

Liberty University is teaming up with the new evangelical program WHEEL POWER to raise money through riding bicycles. WHEEL POWER stands for Witnessing, Helping, Evangelizing, Encouraging and Loving as we Pedal Our Way to Eternal Rewards.

WHEEL POWER is hosting a program called Ride, Raise and Reach. Through this program, cyclists from across the nation will participate in a bike ride from Maine to Florida from Sept. 14 to Oct. 21. Additionally, cyclists may participate in ride from California to Virginia from March 14 to May 8, 2009.

"This isn't just about riding bicycles. We want everybody to involve

themselves, whether it is with praying, making a donation, or helping out with public relations and marketing," WHEEL POWER founder Judy Bowman said. "Of course, the chief focus of why we do this is to spread the gospel message, and the bicycles allow us to be wide open, so we are very available to talk to people about the Lord."

Bowman, a former Liberty student and employee as well as a world record-holder in cycling, began the evangelistic bicycling ministry in 1990. Since then, participants have collectively peddled 1.8 million miles, shared the gospel with over 30,000 individuals and prayed with thousands who have received Christ.

The program, which claims the motto "ride with a passion, raise money for a purpose and reach people with the gospel," will raise funds from sponsorships and donations. The resources will be used for the Liberty endowment fund as well as to help with the completion of the Towns/Alumni Ministry Training Center.

"The Towns/Alumni Ministry Training Center is a three-year, \$2 million campaign. It is being built right now and will be the largest classroom on campus," Director of Alumni Affairs Andy Barrick said.

The building, which will be completed this fall, will seat 900 and host training for pastors and ministries.

Dr. Elmer Towns has already pledged to cycle five miles during the Ride, Raise and Reach program, and Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. has also agreed to participate, according to Bowman.

Anyone interested in the ministry is invited to join the cyclists for any or all of the trip, Bowman said. Along with cycling, Liberty students also

have the opportunity to earn credit for Christian Service, internship hours or a practicum by being involved.

Alumni are able to get involved by cycling, making their hometowns aware of when the tour will be passing through and taking part in the activities, according to Barrick.

"We will be formulating and doing (Liberty) rallies at probably seven or eight different alumni churches, and we will be using the resources of the University to go and promote (the program)," Barrick said.

WHEEL POWER partners with a number of these churches, which provide discipleship after the group moves through the areas.

"We're not just riding our bikes, talking about the Lord and then leaving people," Bowman said.

The organization strategically plans out its course of travel, often targeting tourism areas where people tend to be more relaxed and open to conversation, according to Bowman's son Steve, who has worked as a missionary with WHEEL POWER for eight years.

Ride, Raise and Reach is an ongoing ministry of WHEEL POWER. Liberty, along with the partners, have hopes of turning it into at least a biannual event with the main purpose of reaching the lost, Bowman said.

"God will put people where we stop to fill up our water bottles, use the restroom facilities, have lunch in little cafés," she said. "Seeds will be planted all along the way."

For more information about the ministry, visit WheelPower.org.

Contact Claire Melsi at cvmelsi@liberty.edu.

Spring Fling hits Liberty

By Anna Blevins
LIFE! REPORTER

Spring is in the air — at least that is what the Student Care Office and the Office of Student Conduct believe. The two offices are hosting the first Spring Fling on Wednesday, April 9.

The Spring Fling serves as a sort of open house for the Student Care Office and the Office of Student Conduct. The event offers a friendly atmosphere that invites students to get to know these offices a little better.

"This will be a very exciting event in that what we are providing is all free of charge," Janet Brown, from the Student Care Office, said. "There will be a sketch artist available to do caricatures of students, refreshments, music (and) giveaways, all surrounded by an open house atmosphere as students are coming or going between their classes."

For students, the Spring Fling is a great way to see the heart of both the Student Conduct Office and Office of Student Care.

The Office of Student Conduct and the Student Care Office see the Spring Fling as a ministry, and they hope for "students to learn who we are and what services are provided for the Liberty community," according to Brown.

"We trust that students will know that our offices are a place to come to be ministered to," Brown said. "We exist for students to be cared for. We desire growth and success in their whole person — spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. We expect a great time and a great turnout."

The Spring Fling will take place on the outside steps of DeMoss Hall. Students will be able to come and go as they please.

"Students love to hang out with their friends and enjoy 'dropping by' something that is inviting and fun," Brown said. "Of course, many will come just to have some barbeque wings and other great appetizers."

If the event proves successful, the two offices will hope to host more events like this one.

"We are planning on offering even more events, such as this, next year from our offices," Brown said.

Join the Office of Student Care and the Student Conduct Office for their Spring Fling on April 9 on the outside steps of DeMoss between 12 and 3 p.m.

Contact Anna Blevins at acblevins@liberty.edu.



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Homemade dessert and ice tea included.

All items offered for one inclusive price

Adult \$12.00 • Children under 12 \$6.00 • 2 and under FREE

**Private rooms available for Wedding Receptions,
Rehearsal Dinners, Birthday and Anniversary
Celebrations and Business Retreats.**

Separate Menus Available

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Hours: Thurs-Sat 4:30 - 9:00pm

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