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B3



CHECK IT OUT
Coffeehouse
photos

B8

liberty CHAMPION

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011 • VOLUME 28 ISSUE 17

Director to address graduates

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A wide range of reaction was displayed when Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. announced the class of 2011's commencement speaker, Randall Wallace, at the Senior Appreciation Meeting on March 28.

"At first I didn't know who he was. Those are amazing

stories he has done. I think it's cool that he is someone that a lot of people don't know," graduating senior Caroline Norton said. "Having family that isn't saved, I'm excited that they will get to hear from him."

Wallace looks forward to returning to Lynchburg and expressing his gratitude towards Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr. However, some students

were disappointed when they did not immediately recognize the speaker's name.

"I was disappointed when the Chancellor announced the speaker because they have used such well known people over the past few years," graduating senior Molly Neff said. "I think



WALLACE

that it is going to be really good. Wallace seems like he will have a lot of great things to say."

Since the first graduating class in 1973, Liberty University has welcomed esteemed scholars, educators, politicians, authors and evangelists to usher graduating seniors

into their lives after Liberty.

"When I heard a clip of his speech at this year's National Prayer Breakfast. I was convinced that he was the speaker for 2011," Falwell said. "I knew that he could help us to focus on what is going to be important during the next 40 years."

Widely known for his film, "Braveheart," which received the Writers Guild

of America award for best screenplay adapted directly for the screen, along with multiple Academy Awards and nominations, Wallace has written, produced and directed more than 15 movies and television series. His films include "Pearl Harbor" and "Secretariat."

See **SPEAKER** on A3

baker trial

Teenager guilty of murder

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The third of three teens involved in the murder of George Baker was convicted at a jury trial March 10.

After three hours of testimony and over an hour and a half of deliberation, the jury convicted Kenneth Jerome Davis Jr. of first-degree murder.

The key issue in Davis' case was premeditation of murder. If premeditation was not proven, the maximum conviction would be second-degree murder.

Davis, who was 16 at the time of the slaying was downtown with a group of nearly a dozen teens and, according to eyewitnesses, apparently intoxicated at the time of the murder.

According to eyewitness and his own testimonies, he told his friends he planned to hit someone downtown to impress some of the girls in the group and threatened D'Antonio Davis and Vernon Jackson, the other teens on trial, he would "stretch them out" if they did not back up his attack.

Baker, who was in town from Tempe, Ariz. to celebrate his grand-daughter's wedding, left the downtown wedding reception after 10:30 p.m. The teens saw him walking ahead of them and asked him for a cigarette before initiating their attack.

After repeatedly hitting and kicking Baker on 1100 block of Main Street, they left him on the ground and unconscious with eight broken ribs and a fractured skull.

D'Antonio Davis, who was 13 when the September 5 attack took place, was the only teen not tried as an adult. He was convicted of first-degree murder on Feb. 28, and is to be sentenced April 8. He faces a maximum penalty of custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice until he turns 21.

Kenneth Davis will be sentenced May 20, with the maximum sentence of life in prison. Jackson is the last to be tried. His trial and plea hearing have been postponed. According to prosecutors, Jackson will be allowed to plead guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for testimony against Kenneth Davis. The maximum penalty for second-degree murder is 40 years in prison.

◆ HEAVNER is a news writer.

crisis in japan



PHOTO PROVIDED

PRAYER FOR RECOVERY — Japanese students gathered together to pray for their home nation after the devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown possibilities.

Students pray for Japan

Six Japanese students attend Liberty University

ASHLEY BOLLINGER
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The impact of the earthquake that shook the Pacific Japanese coast March 11 was felt nearly 7000 miles away in Lynchburg, Va.

Liberty University student and Japanese citizen Mana Tsuchihashi recalled the fear and horror that overcame her when she learned of the devastation.

"I was shocked, at first I could not believe it. I watched the video of the tsunami online," Tsuchihashi said. "I watched it come over the city. I watched it wash the city away."

Tsuchihashi is one of six Japanese students currently studying at Liberty University.

The devastation claimed the lives of 10,498 Japanese people, according to the Japanese National Police Agency on March 26. With 16,621 people still missing the efforts of search and rescue conducted by the Japanese government are still continuing, according to the report released by the agency.

Although the destruction is great in Japan, controversy has arisen over the issue of whether or not Japan wants external support at this point in time, according to Gleaning For The World's (GFTW) Communications Director Ishmael Labiosa.

GFTW is an organization that sends relief supplies and



BAPTIST PRESS

LENDING A HELPING HAND — Volunteers unload boxes of food at an evacuation center in Japan.

funds to people who are in need. They cover both national disasters and situations of poverty.

According to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Japan is devoting its focus to search and rescue. With the means available in the nation at this time, the office announced that efforts to send supplies to Japan are discouraged.

However, Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan sent a contradicting message March 22 in a press release from his office.

"The rescue workers, search dogs and nuclear power experts from various countries, as well as the human resources support from the U.S. Forces in Japan and others, assistance with food, medical supplies, blankets, and other supplies,

See **JAPAN** on A7

Teddy bears lift kids' spirits

ALD collected more than 300 stuffed animals

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The Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society (ALD) held its annual teddy bear drive that continues to impact sick children in the Lynchburg community.

The annual fundraiser will be donating teddy bears to the Virginia Baptist Hospital Children's Ward.

The teddy bear drive lasted for four days, starting Monday, March 21 and ending Thursday, March 24.

Large bins and boxes are scattered in 20 collection locations including offices in Campus Main, Campus North and an off campus site on 12th Street.

Bessie Grayson, the administrator advisor of ALD, adopted the idea of a teddy bear drive from other universities.

"The teddy bear drive has given an opportunity for all ALD members to contribute to this event and to contribute to the community," said Grayson, who has been a member of ALD for 15 years.

Theodore Whitney, Grayson's staff member who works for the business intelligence



BEARS FOR CHILDREN — The Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society collected teddy bears for the Virginia Baptist Hospital Children's Ward.

of Liberty, was delighted in the fundraiser. His daughter is a former Virginia Baptist Hospital child who received a blue teddy bear that she currently sleeps with today. Whitney and his daughter thanked ALD personally for making a difference in their lives.

Grayson also mentioned the large amounts

of emails from online students who want to help with the fundraiser.

"We are so excited about this," said Grayson. "So many people want to get involved."

Students can help by donating brand new teddy bears or stuffed animals that are no more than 12 inches long. Volunteers can also

collect donations at their dorms. ALD raised more than 300 teddy bears for the Virginia Baptist Hospital Children's Ward last spring and is expecting a larger turnout this year.

The treasurer of ALD, Sammi Jo Blue, remembers receiving a stuffed animal while hospitalized as a child.

"This needs to be on a giving end," said Blue. "There can be a person who is 20 years old who still has a teddy bear with blue jean overalls."

The ALD Honor Society is a local chapter of a national interdisciplinary honor society that provides a Christian intellectual and social enrichment.

Andre Craig, one of the vice presidents of ALD, expresses his view of the teddy bear drive.

"The teddy bear drive is a good idea," said Craig. "The idea of college students dedicating their time to collect stuffed animals so that they can bring a smile on a child's face is heart warming and it's a blessing."

The honor society also fundraises for the Jubilee Center of Lynchburg and raises money for mission trips for Liberty graduates.

"A teddy bear is an inexpensive way to impact a life. If you want to give joy and hope, a teddy bear can do that." ALD member Shalonda Hutchins said.

◆ CHUKS is a news writer.

Journal makes debut Liberty Legal Journal due out in April

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A team of students from the Liberty University School of Law has been working diligently for months in preparation for the release of the spring issue of the Liberty Legal Journal.

The Liberty Legal Journal is a student run publication which includes an impressive collection of articles, photographs, reviews and other information. The journal was officially founded in 2010 by third year law school student Doug Waters and three other law students.

"I think it's a very new avenue for Liberty University School of Law. We haven't done anything like this before," senior staff member Jeremy White said. "What we're shooting for is something on par with the ABA Journal but with a distinctively Christian worldview."

The team is striving to write the journal in such a way that it is available and helpful to a wide range of individuals. The diversity of the topics covered has the potential to be appealing to a broader audience, in comparison to some journals which target a more specific group.

"Our goal is to reach out nationwide to the law community, but also in a format that would appeal to outside the law community," faculty works editor Jessica Marlowe said.

The current journal team is composed of nine individuals. The group of students has put countless hours into the composition of the spring issue. This issue will mark another milestone for the Liberty Legal Journal as it continues to grow at a rapid rate. It will be 13 pages longer than the issue released in the fall.

"Each participant brings something unique to the table," online editor and second year law student Karlee Shelton said. "We've been working together

really well."

Judge Paul Spinden and professor Rodney Chrisman have taken on the role of faculty advisors to help guide the team as they work to further advance the journal.

"I'm here to provide some guidance to the board concerning major decisions, as well as reviewing article submissions," Spinden said.

The first issue of the Liberty Legal Journal was released in the fall of 2010. The team plans on publishing 20,000 print copies of the spring issue which will be available in April.

The online edition of the Liberty Legal Journal is currently undergoing construction. These changes will make the website more user friendly, according to editor-in-chief and second year law student Katherine Charapich.

The only significant difference between the two editions is that the online version is constantly updated as articles are submitted while the print version is biannual.

"The mission of the Liberty Legal Journal is to be the premier print and online student initiated conservative, Christian legal journal, providing legal expression and legal thought based on truth," Charapich said.

The Dean of Liberty University School of Law Mathew Staver and Spinden both stated that they are unaware of any other Christian student run legal journal.

Watching the idea unfold and take off has been a very enjoyable experience, according to Spinden. The law school's administration provides support and resources to the students to publish the journal.

"We are 100 percent supportive of the journal and its student leadership team," Staver said.

◆ LAIRD is a news writer.



TOW ZONE — New towing policies have already created safer parking lots.

BERNARD LOHMEYER

New policy promotes safety

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Finding a parking space seems to at times be a struggle. Often, students resort to not only creating spaces but also possibly creating dangerous conditions. In order to help promote safety and make parking lots more easily accessible for university and emergency vehicles, LUPD has instated a new towing policy.

"In many lots on campus, many cars were parked in places that were not designed or marked for parking," LUPD chief of police Col. Richard Hinkley said. "By doing this, it created narrow roadways, limited sight at corners and interfered with both university business and emergency access."

On Monday, March 7, LUPD began enforcing the policy. As stated in an announcement issued by LUPD, any car that is not parked in a marked parking space, between two white lines, will be subject to towing — however, there is an exception for those parked in a gravel lot.

According to Hinkley, safety is the main reason why the rules and guidelines put into place should be followed.

"We have many accidents weekly in the parking lots," Hinkley said.

Senior Jennifer Wheeler has had her share of frustration with parking and appreciates the new policy.

"I appreciate it because it would be frustrating to drive through the Reber Thomas parking lot,"

Wheeler said. "There were cars parked in random spots making it difficult to safely travel up and down the aisles."

This policy will be enforced at all times. According to LUPD, there will not be any warning before a car is towed. If a car is towed, there are a few steps to take.

"First, call Liberty University Police at 434-592-7641 to confirm that the car was towed and by what tow company," Hinkley said. "Then, call the tow company to arrange payment and pick up."

According to Hinkley, the best times to find spaces are before 9 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. David's Place (PM03), Doc's Diner (PE03) and PM18, by Resident Hall Main 33, often have the most open spaces.

"These lots have space available at all times," Hinkley said. "It is rare to see any of them full."

Although the new policy has proven successful in certain areas, according to Hinkley, it is too early to tell if the new policy will reduce the number of accidents.

"Since this was instituted, the problems with access, sight distances and interference with business and emergency access have been almost eliminated," Hinkley said.

For more information about parking, visit the LUPD website, which can be found through the Splash page.

◆ SMITH is the asst. feature editor.

libertyCHAMPION

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

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

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Yellow ribbon: new opportunity

Veterans have the chance to receive higher education

TYLER FLYNN
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An innovative initiative within a recent federal funding measure is providing additional financial assistance for college students with military service.

The Yellow Ribbon Program, a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, allows degree-granting institutions in the United States to share the cost of tuition with the federal government for up to 100 percent of the expense.

Signed into law June 30, 2008 by President Bush, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the new GI bill, was introduced in Congress in January 2007 by Senator Jim Webb as an attempt to offer more monetary aide to both active and former military members. The legislation offers a wide variety of assistance including an annual stipend of up to \$1,000 for education costs, four years of educational tuition benefits and a monthly living stipend for housing costs,

according to militarytimes.com. The new GI bill presents the greatest educational benefits package since the original GI Bill of 1944, according to military.com

"Sixty-five years ago, a grateful nation offered a generation of World War II heroes the chance to go to college," President Obama said in a White House press release celebrating the program's commencement in August 2009. "The original GI Bill paved the way to a better life for millions of veterans and their families while building the foundation of the American middle class. Today, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is affording a new generation of heroes a 21st century version of that same opportunity."

As a subset of the Post 9/11- GI Bill, the Yellow Ribbon Program allows colleges and universities in the United States to voluntarily work with the commonwealth of Virginia to fund tuition expenses that exceed either the \$17,500 cap for private institutions or the resident tuition and fees for a public institution. Institutions

can contribute up to 50 percent of those expenses and the state will match the same amount as the institution. Qualified students have the potential to attend school tuition free.

Candidates for the Yellow Ribbon Program include those who have served at least 36 months on active duty or have served at least 30 continuous days and were discharged due to a service-related injury after Sept. 11, 2001. The benefit can be transferred to eligible family members.

Since the implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, more than 3,400 agreements have been received from 1,100 schools participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program, according to whitehouse.gov.

"This bill provides a modern and fair educational benefit to address the needs of those who answered the call of duty to our country — those who moved toward the sound of the guns — often at great sacrifice," Senator Jim H. Webb said to veteransadvantage.com.

Liberty currently offers the program for all qualified

undergraduate and graduate students and has pledged \$10,750 per student annually, according to gibillva.gov. This amount may change next year.

In a March 10 press release by the Department of Veteran Affairs, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki encouraged academic institutions nationwide to meet the May 23 program deadline for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

"Through shared responsibility, Virginia and our nation's colleges and universities are working together to ensure that our service members, veterans and dependents receive the education benefits they have earned," Shinseki said.

Some changes will not take effect until fall 2011 and restrictions may apply. There is also a Heroes Fund Scholarship for wounded veterans. Visit liberty.edu/militaryaffairs for more information.

◆ FLYNN is a news writer.

SPEAKER continued from A1

"Our goal every year is to choose a commencement speaker whose achievements provide a real life example of what our graduates can accomplish in their lives," Falwell said. "Randall Wallace has done what few others have. He has risen to the top of his profession in Hollywood while remaining a committed Christian since his youth."

Wallace's accomplishments excited some students who will be happy to hear from a different kind of commencement speaker.

As a screenwriter, director, producer and songwriter, Wallace is a different type of speaker than Liberty has invited in past years, according to Falwell.

"I think that he is different in that he has worked more behind the scenes than some of our other speakers, but he is the perfect fit for our 40th anniversary celebration because he has mastered the art of communications," Falwell said. "Technology has forever changed how our graduates will have to communicate their Christian message to the world."

"Gone is the day when writing a book or delivering an eloquent speech will be enough to capture the hearts and minds of the masses," Falwell said. "To be effective, our graduates must infiltrate the entertainment world and start using it as a force for good. It has been monopolized by the wrong influences for too long."

"Dr. Jerry Falwell founded Liberty the same year I graduated from college. Reverend Falwell demonstrated the absolute courage of his convictions, the unshakable belief that if God was with us, nothing could stand against us," Wallace said. "He did not let others define his positions or his potential, and the presence of this thriving university is a testament to the power of those beliefs. As a boy from Lynchburg, I found inspiration and hope in his example."

Wallace added that he was greatly touched and encouraged by Falwell Sr. during his formative years.

"When I was 12 or 13 years old and was struggling through issues of belief and behavior, I wrote Dr. Falwell a letter to ask his advice, and I received a hand-written response," Wallace said.

Wallace attended Duke University where he studied religion and planned to complete his degree and become a minister before deciding to pursue a career in writing, according to his biography on Wheelhouse Entertainment's website.

Pushing the bounds of his literary career, Wallace is also a New York Times bestselling author of seven novels including "Braveheart," "Love and Honor" and "Pearl Harbor."

Founding Wheelhouse Entertainment in 1999, Wallace had a dream to pursue and encourage love, courage and honor in entertainment.

Looking forward to visiting his hometown, Wallace said being back in Lynchburg would be interesting.

"Liberty's fantastic growth has brought enormous vitality to my hometown, and it represents hope and possibility for tens of thousands of young people," Wallace said.

Falwell added, "Ever since I first watched 'Braveheart' in 1995 and learned that its writer was from Lynchburg, I have wanted to meet Randall Wallace. That movie's lessons about the evils of big government and tyranny and the virtues of freedom are more relevant today than ever."

When asked about his speech, Wallace said, "I don't know, I haven't heard my speech yet. But I know for sure that I want to encourage (the graduates) to believe that the miracles of their lives are only just beginning."

◆ BOLLINGER is the news editor.

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Let's get ready to rumble...

KATIE BELL
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With the Iowa Caucuses less than a year away, many have been wondering who the GOP will select to enter the political ring against the reigning champ.

President Obama won the race as a freshman senator from Illinois. There is no reason why a relatively obscure politician from the right side of the aisle cannot do the same.

News sources report that there are eleven candidates that are either considering running or who have already committed to the race. Top Contenders include Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney.

This editorial will examine the candidates' attributes as well as their flaws.

Meet the possible contenders:

Michele Bachmann is a third term Congresswoman from Minnesota who founded the House Tea Party caucus in response to President Obama's 2011 State of the Union address. She advocates for lower taxes for families and small



BACHMANN

businesses, is a staunch advocate for repealing President Obama's health care legislation and as a foster mother of 23 children she is vehemently pro-life.

Governor of Minnesota, Tim Pawlenty is the rookie in the bunch. The season is looking bright for Pawlenty as he recently announced he had formed a presidential exploratory committee and has already begun fundraising. As governor, Pawlenty has been able to significantly reduce his state's debt.

"Join the team and, together, we'll restore America," Pawlenty said as he announced his Presidential exploratory committee on March 12, 2011.

Former governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee, is doing quite well with his news program on Fox. Although he emerged victorious in the 2008 Iowa Caucuses, many in the conservative movement think it is unlikely that he will run in 2012.

Huckabee has announced that he will not make an official announcement until summer of 2011.

"I'm thinking very carefully. I'm very seriously



PAWLENTY



HUCKABEE

considering making a run for it," Huckabee said on Good Morning America.

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives and Georgia native, Newt Gingrich, has a proven track record of alluding to a possible presidential race and then subsequently backing out. His three marriages and extra marital affairs have proven to be somewhat of a problem for the social conservative voter base. Multiple marriages and affairs provide a blemish on his name that even the most skilled of public relations teams would find hard to overcome.

"We will look at this very seriously and we will very methodically lay out the framework of what we'll do next, Gingrich said in his exploratory phase announcement in Georgia on March 9, 2011.

Will she or won't she? This question is on the minds of conservatives across the nation. Sarah Palin has alluded to a presidential run but has not confirmed or denied anything.

"I'm looking at the lay of the land now, and ... trying to figure that out, if it's a good thing for the country, for the discourse, for my family," Palin told ABC's Barbara Walters.

Former governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney has given vague answers as to whether



GINGRICH

or not he will run.

"I haven't made a decision yet as to what we're going to do. That decision will be made sometime down the road, but I can tell you that I'm very drawn to the fact that this country needs someone who has private sector experience, because this economy is troubled," Romney said.

The general consensus is that Romney is not likely to get very far in the primaries because he voted in favor for Obama's healthcare reform.

"In a hypothetical 2012 matchup, Huckabee leads Obama 52 - 44 percent, while Romney has a 50-45 point advantage, which is within the poll's sampling error. Obama holds a 49-47 percent margin over Gingrich," an article by the CNN political unit said. The article was dated two days after the 2010 midterm election.

Political races are like weather; they are only but so predictable. One thing remains for certain, the GOP nominee for president will be in for the match of his or her life.

◆ BELL is the opinion editor.



PALIN



ROMNEY

Employment: Be a part of the solution

ANDREW GULA
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The seeming problem confronting many college graduates is that there simply are not as many job openings as there are job applicants.

We've all been there. Hunting for summer jobs until the summer's over, turning in 20 applications and never getting an interview...

What are we to do? It's not like the job market has a "graduates only" section if you flash your diploma to them. In fact, there are thousands of graduates each year who end up in dead-end, minimum wage jobs, or wasting a year in an unpaid internship only to get let go before their salary begins.

This is an international problem, going beyond the stereotypical culprits of an increasing retirement age and the "Baby Boomer" generation. While many people will blame the government, it just comes across as a lame excuse. The fact that this problem is plaguing the rest of the world shows that it can't just be the government's fault. In fact, no one in any government seems to know what to do about it.

"The previous five years it was a sellers' market for these kids. They could pretty much demand what



GOOGLE IMAGES

LOOKING — Regardless of the economic climate, the ability to gain employment ultimately rests in the hands of job seekers.

they wanted in terms of a job and what they got from an employer. That's no longer going to be the case," said Ed Koc, a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers, of new college graduates in an ABCNews.com article.

This is certainly not encouraging for those who are preparing to graduate and head out into the workforce. The fact that not even the experts fully understand what's going on makes it worse, especially as it has erupted into huge disputes elsewhere in the world.

"We've never encountered anything like this," said Defense Secretary Robert Gates in a Washington-

Post.com article. "I think we should be alert to the fact that outcomes are not predetermined, and that it's not necessarily the case that everything has a happy ending. We are in dark territory and nobody knows what the outcome will be."

That much is obvious, as this kind of college-aged civil unrest continues to spread across the globe. The most obvious, of course, is Egypt, which saw a civil uprising that seemed to develop almost overnight. The unemployment rate was a large source. But what you probably don't know is that the numbers between Egypt and America's graduate unemployment are a little too close for comfort.

About one out of every four Egyptians under the age of 25 are unemployed and according to a report released by the Bureau of Labor, the average in the U.S. is about one in every five.

While that is by far the scariest statistic, the similarities don't stop there. Egypt experienced a severe rift between bureaucrats and the working class, has an enormous amount of frustrated and dissatisfied young people (who made up the majority of the rioters) and also a political regime too focused in other areas to note the growing concerns in their own backyard.

Sound familiar?

"The uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa are a warning for the developed world. The 'desperate generation' in Portugal got tens of thousands of people to participate in nationwide protests. How much longer until the rest of the rich world follows their lead?" said Matthew Klein, a research associate at the Council of Foreign Relations, in a NYTimes.com article.

Many people will turn to blame the government for this, wondering why they don't step in and intercede on our behalf. Honestly, it's not their job — blaming the Obama administration for not creating 100,000 jobs

a year for college graduates is preposterous. The government has had to deal with natural disasters at every turn, political unrest in volatile overseas areas and a few trillion dollars of national debt.

So it falls to us to be the masters of our own fate ... at least in terms of ensuring that we'll have a job waiting for us after graduation.

As a college student, I have been in the same lousy situation, working low-paying summer jobs because most jobs were being taken by laid-off 40-somethings who are desperate to feed their families.

And does the future look any brighter for me once I have a college degree?

If where things are going is any indication, it doesn't seem likely.

I'm working hard to set myself up for success when my number gets called to dive into the job market, doing internships and volunteer work in areas that will help me stand out from other job applicants.

There's not much else for us to do but to try our hardest before it's too late.

If we can't get a job with our valuable college degrees, there will be no one to blame but ourselves.

◆ GULA is an opinion writer.

From the Desk

I said goodbye to my grandfather Saturday. We stood in a frigid downpour in front of his grave as a member of the United States Air Force played TAPS on her bugle in the distance. As the honor guard knelt on one knee and presented my dad with the folded flag, he thanked him for my grandfather's service and sacrifice for our country's freedom.

The word sacrifice had also been used earlier in the funeral service. The pastor reminded us of Christ's sacrifice

for us, which gives us the assurance that even though my grandfather is absent from his body, he is present with the Lord. I know this to be true, but I saw the word sacrifice in an entirely new way.

In 2009, my grandfather's house was swept from top to bottom for anything of value, including precious family heirlooms. The perpetrator was the mother and other family members of one of my aunt Judy's students, a family that she had taken under her wing and who's son for whom she and my grandfather cared a great deal for.

After months of investigation and searching for the stolen items in pawnshops, the mother was convicted on felony charges and sent to prison. My family forgave and moved on, putting the ordeal in the past.

Saturday, that same family walked through our receiving line. The son who my grandfather had once talked to for hours about the planes that he piloted was in full ROTC uniform. He was most likely in ROTC because of my grandfather's influence and had come to give him a final salute.

It was hard for me to shake their hands. I could feel how uncomfortable they were and I myself felt uncomfortable touching someone who had so negatively touched my family and hurt my grandfather.

As we gathered back at my grandparent's home, a few

people asked who the misplaced-looking family was. We reminded them of the story and many shook their heads in disbelief, amazed that they would show up on a day already filled with sadness.

Others smiled, and a friend remarked that it is what my grandfather would have wanted — to make amends and forgive them for something they were seeking forgiveness for.

The comment left me thinking about the word sacrifice and how it related to the guilty family and my grandfather's death. Without the hope of salvation, there would be no reason for a funeral. Without the incomprehensible grace that God showed when he sent his Son Jesus to die as a sacrifice for all sinners, there would be no reason to celebrate the life and death of my grandfather or to show the same forgiveness to others.

I am so thankful that God is willing to shake my hand every time that I uncomfortably come before Him for forgiveness.

Taylor Overhultz



World Water Day raises awareness

Causelife encouraged students and faculty to recognize the need for clean water

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Causelife brought 5,000 "just add water" stickers to Liberty's campus to celebrate World Water Day (WWD). Representatives for the World Help affiliated organization stood at a booth at the back hallway of DeMoss giving the stickers to students who posed for pictures beside a giant water well display.

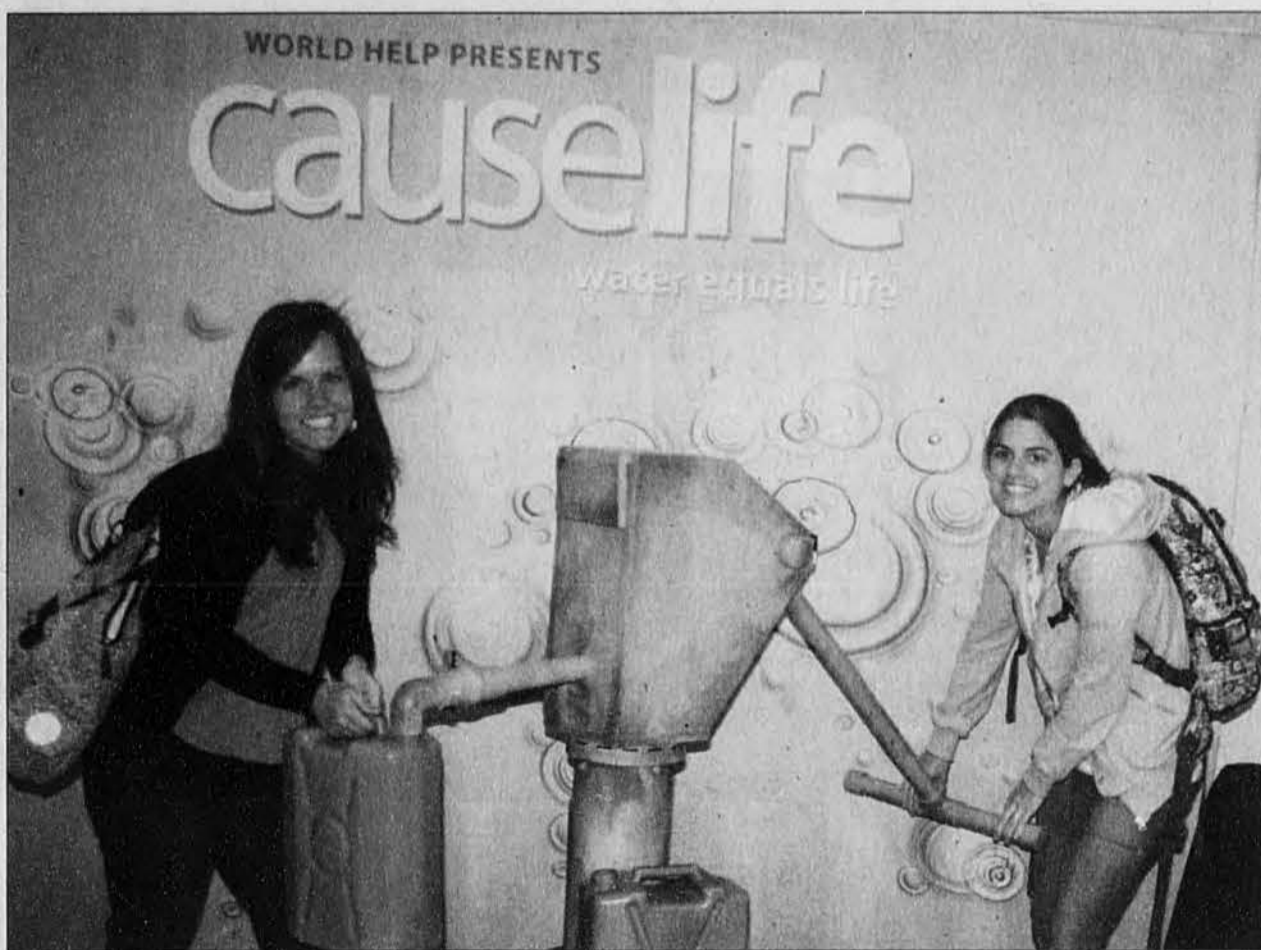
The visit occurred on WWD, Tuesday, March 22. WWD was first observed in 1993 after being instated by a United Nations resolution.

This year WWD was celebrated all over the world with all kinds of events and rallies.

The purpose of the day is to create awareness of the world water crisis, which is occurring all over the globe, especially in developing countries where access to water is limited and unsanitary. Causelife's online community specialist Suzanne Odell represented the organization Tuesday.

"We want to, first of all, raise awareness for what today is for, which is to bring up the need that one billion people in the world face not having access to clean water... but also kind of gauge the interest level of this campus," Odell said.

Odell graduated from Liberty in 2008, where she heard of the ministry of World



HELPING HAND — Students had the opportunity to pose with an imitation well similar to the wells Causelife is building around the world on World Water Day.

Help. "I wanted to use my skills to do something that was helping people," Odell said.

About one year ago she started working for Causelife.

Causelife was created by World Help in 2009 to specifically address the world water crisis, without being under the label of an exclu-

sively Christian-supported agency.

World Help created Causelife because of the desire for "non-Christians also to get involved," Odell said. The current water crisis stifles the education, economy and health of millions of communities around the world.

According to Odell, children who should be in school and parents who should be working and harvesting are spending many hours a day walking miles upon miles to fetch parasite and disease infected water.

This year's slogan at Causelife is "just add water" because simply adding

sanitary water to an area can improve lives, communities and economies. Causelife works to enable those who want to raise support for digging wells in needy areas and by providing water to those places, primarily in Rwanda, Uganda, India and Guatemala.

"We actually drill both

shallow and deep-bore wells, bringing water to communities for around 20 years," Odell said.

Causelife recently dug a well for a school in Rwanda with the help of a church, according to Odell. Previously, the children had to pay for their own water, which was very expensive, but now, that money can be used to invest in their education and provide them with a bright future.

"It's just a big circle effect on how water can change a community," Odell said. "Now those kids have the tools they need to implement sustainable solutions like raising chickens. It changes everything."

According to Odell, based upon Liberty students' response to Causelife's visit, a Causelife chapter may open on campus.

"We really just want to make ourselves more accessible to the student body here because we feel like there's a lot of students who are willing to be activists," Odell said.

Students who want to learn more about the ministry of Causelife and how they can get on board, should visit them at causelife.org/justaddwater or on facebook at facebook.com/causelife.

◆ HEAVNER is a news writer.



SECOND PLACE — Marketing team excels at international competition.

AMA team raises bar

OMAR ADAMS
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While most Liberty University students were in class Thursday, Liberty's American Marketing Association (AMA) Case Competition team was presenting a marketing plan to Nintendo of America senior managers in New Orleans.

The AMA began in 1937 with the merger of the National Association of Teachers of Advertising and the American Marketing Society. Now comprised of more than 40,000 members and more than 350 collegiate chapters, the AMA holds a large annual conference centering around the Case Competition.

"The primary purpose of the Case Competition is two-fold: to provide AMA collegiate members the opportunity to work together on a student problem that typifies a real, working marketing situation and to provide the Case Competition sponsor with the very best marketing students," according to the AMA's website.

"Very best" indeed. The seven students of Liberty's team placed second in the competition out of more than 160 teams that applied. Only the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater team scored higher. Team member Ryan Marrero called them "Serious Fortune 500 material."

The judges, Nintendo of America senior managers, were impressed with Liberty's presentation.

"We had a core message that set us apart,"

Marrero said. "(The judges) loved it"

Marrero and teammate Gary Ashby Jr had lunch with one of the judges the day after their presentation.

"The experience was a great opportunity not just to see the hard work and creativity pay off, but for us to glorify God," Ashby said.

Ashby said a major achievement was tying the University of Pennsylvania-Wharton Business School and British Columbia Institute of Technology. Wharton won the last five competitions and is an Ivy League research university in a research-based competition.

Faculty advisor Dr. Kendrick Brunson compared Liberty's marketing plan with Whitewater's.

"We were able to see their presentation and agree that they had an award-winning presentation," Brunson said. "There were some aspects of our plan that I believe are better but that is the nature of this competition. The ultimate winner is the team that most closely aligns with the judges' viewpoint, something that we cannot determine in advance."

Though the team did not place first, the sponsor may choose aspects of their plan to put into practice.

"I told the team members that it is entirely possible that they may see some of their ideas in future Nintendo promotional campaigns," Brunson continued. "I am extremely proud of the students' efforts and believe they have learned many valuable lessons that will help them succeed in their future careers."

◆ ADAMS is the copy editor.

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Unconventional date night for commuters

BRITTANY LAIRD
blaird@liberty.edu

A quiet, romantic dinner was held for engaged and married Liberty University commuter students by the Office of Commuter Affairs. The event was held March 24 in the Executive Dining Room at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall.

The couples enjoyed a stress free evening with each other, away from the pressures of homework and classes. The candlelight and music added to the romantic atmosphere as the couples visited with each other.

Dean of Students Keith Anderson and Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Hine both made an appearance at the dinner.

"I know that these events

are important to alleviate some of the pressures on a relationship," Anderson said. "Events like this provide that positive experience and help us know that all our sacrifice and time spent on an education will pay off."

Students were welcomed into the room and seated at elegantly decorated tables. A three-course meal was served by Sodexo throughout the evening.

The event was planned by Director of Commuter Affairs Larry Provost in order to give the married and engaged students a chance to spend an evening mingling with other couples. The office's main goal was to be of service to the students, according to Provost.

"I tasked myself, what would be good for our married stu-



NIGHT OUT — Married students had the opportunity to gather together in a time of fellowship March 24.

dents?" Provost said. "A good, decent, godly, romantic time with their spouse."

The couples enjoyed this evening of relaxing, making new friends, and exchanging contact information to keep in touch with each other.

"It's our date night," seminary student Kathy Smith

said. "Normally we're home studying and studying. This is a really nice break."

Towards the end of the evening Provost gave a short speech encouraging the students to be strong amidst the stress of combining school and marriage.

More than 25 couples

signed up to attend this event. Based on the positive reaction of the students, Commuter Affairs plans on hosting another dinner in the future.

"This was exactly what I was needing," commuter Ashley Irizarry Torruella said.

She and her husband Berto Irizarry Torruella both ex-

pressed their eager anticipation of similar future events.

"I think it turned out exceptionally well," Provost said. "The Commuter Office is committed to helping our off campus Champions in every way possible."

◆ LAIRD is a news writer.

New flameslist website allows students to buy, sell

Mary Seilkop
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Every semester mass emails for rides, buying books, selling books and other transactions pass through Liberty University classes, much to the annoyance of some recipients.

Freshman Stephen Baird is one of those receivers. After wading through the emails his first semester, he decided something needed to change. The idea of Flameslist.com came into existence.

"I just thought there had to be a better way for people to get word out that they are trying to sell things or get rides or tutoring in the student body," Baird said. "So I decided to build a website that would allow the

students to be able to communicate among themselves so that nobody would be annoyed by these emails anymore."

On the website Liberty students can buy or sell essentially anything including books, electronics, clothing and bicycles. They can also offer or ask for rides, tutoring and local jobs. Flameslist is free to use and easy to navigate, according to Baird.

"So far we've had over one hundred posts," Baird said. "A lot of people are return users. I have no idea how successful the site is, I can only guess based on the number of hits it gets, but I feel like it's actually working."

Jessica Grigg, a junior Journalism major and investor with Flameslist.



FLAMESLIST — A new website allows Liberty students to sell and purchase products from classmates.

com, helps Baird advertise around the city with different businesses and on campus. She is enthusiastic about where the website is headed.

When setting up the website, Baird said he conducted research to determine the best format for his website. He looked through several similar formats to eBay but was not satisfied that there was no place for students to list carpooling on many of them. After deciding to go with a format like Craig's List, his next step was to name it and launch it. Flameslist.com came into existence early February.

"I created it in such a way that if you want to post an ad, you don't have to go through and create a profile like eBay," Baird explained. "You can just go on there and post what you want to."

The website only requires an email address to post so that follow-

up email with links and offers can be sent to the address. There are also options to edit or delete a post once it is created.

As well as providing a place for transactions to happen, Baird said he also is very open to suggestions to improve the website. One suggestion he is planning to follow up on is adding videos.

"I take suggestions very seriously. I've had a couple people email me about adding different categories. If I think it's something that several people can benefit from I put it on the site immediately. There may be things I haven't thought of," Baird said.

◆ SEILKOP is a news writer.

JAPAN jump from A1

and offers of assistance from over 670 non-government organizations and other organizations have all been profoundly uplifting to the Japanese people, who have come to realize acutely that a friend in need is a friend indeed," Kan said.

GFTW confirmed, however, that they are unable to send supplies because of increased inspection at customs.

Tsuchihashi was shocked to hear that the government was no longer accepting the assistance of international organizations, but she said she did understand.

"I understand that it is difficult to accept help from people in other countries," Tsuchihashi said. "There are different cultures that make connecting hard — but Japan needs help."

Students and organizations are coming together with the community to help reach out to the people in Japan through funds, which are being sent overseas to partner

organizations now, as well as supplies, which will be sent at a later time, Labiosa said.

Tsuchihashi and the other Japanese students have been using any means possible to raise money for GFTW to send help to Japan.

"It has been an interesting situation for us," Labiosa said. "Normally, we have an organization or something that will work with us right away, but with Japan it took us a few days to find those organizations and figure out what they needed most."

Though the situation in Japan has been catastrophic, Tsuchihashi said that she believes this disastrous event is going to have a positive impact on her home nation.

"I am encouraged and I want to encourage people to pray for the people of Japan," Tsuchihashi said. "Pray that they would come to know the only true hope, hope in God. We take every day for granted."

◆ BOLLINGER is the news editor.



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Awakening Conference returns

Freedom Federation sponsors Awakening

BETSY ABRAHAM
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That's the theme of the Awakening 2011, an upcoming conference sponsored by the organizations that are part of the Freedom Federation which seeks to bring together people from every race, ethnicity and generation to integrate faith and public policy.

The event is open to the public and will take place at Liberty, April 8-9. According to Law School Dean Mathew Staver, the Awakening 2011 comes at a crucial time in America as participants will be encouraged to stand up for their core Christian values in the public forum.

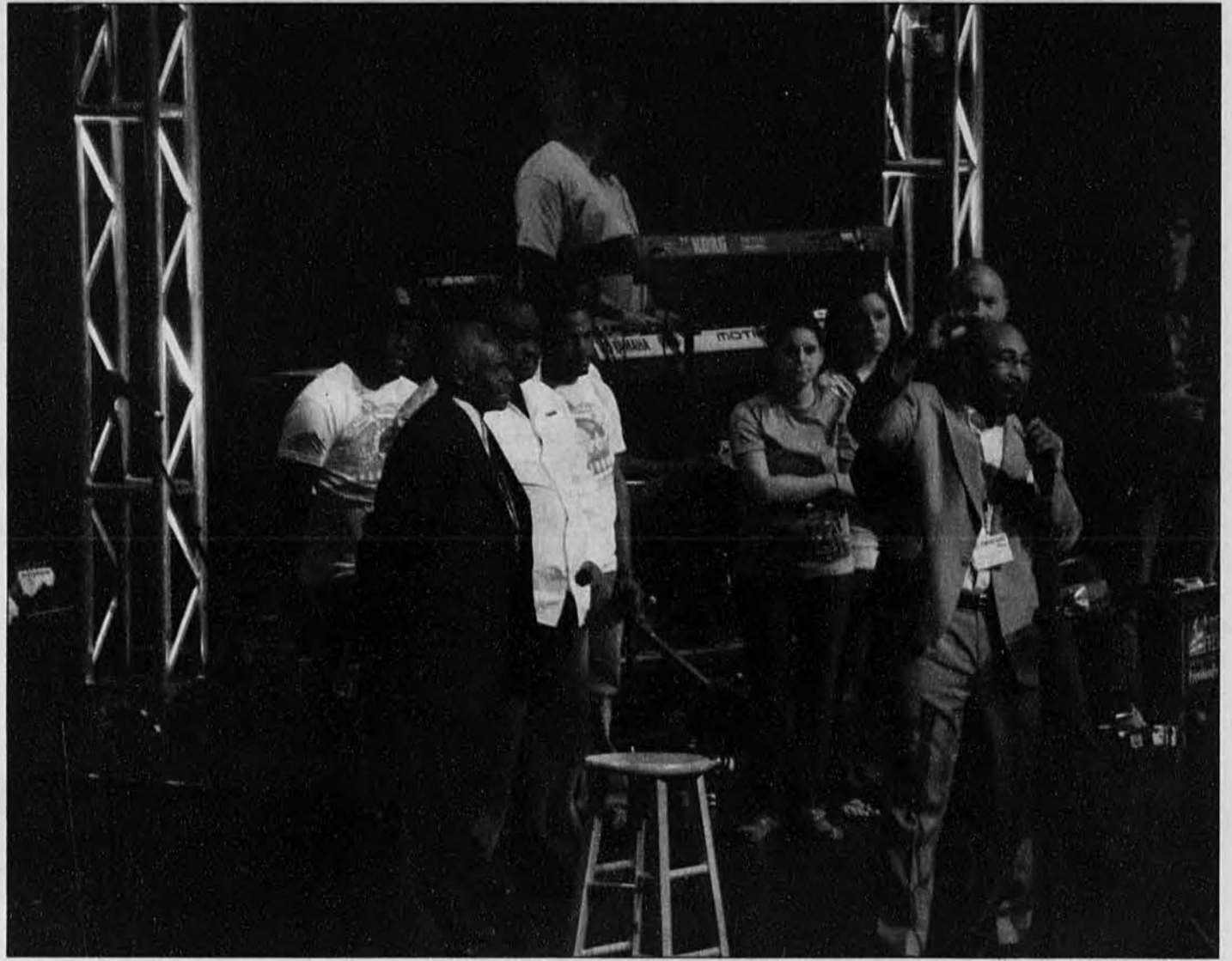
"The Awakening is not a typical conference. It is a celebration and a time to be inspired and encouraged to take our Christian values into the community as we raise our voices across racial, ethnic and generational lines," Staver said.

"God is doing something unique in America right now. The year 2012 is so critical for the future because we are in a battle for the direction of America," Staver continued. "We're seeing a clash of worldviews and values. We can choose to participate or be silent. If we choose to be silent, we're choosing to simply not engage and to let evil triumph."

The event will feature more than 50 national speakers including political leaders such as former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Congressman Tim Price. However, Staver said that the Awakening is more than a political event. "There's going to be something for everyone," Staver said. "The Awakening is more of an experience than an event that brings together faith and public policy in one package. We celebrate our faith and also talk about how our faith can impact various areas of life."

Junior Amanda Haas attended last year's Awakening conference and said that even though it has political elements, the Christian aspect of the event sets it apart.

"It's Christian based, and they keep God at the forefront of everything. Everyone speaking is integrating faith and freedom and has a Christian worldview. If you're a Christian and concerned about (something), you can (come and) hear about it from speakers with the same worldview," Haas said.



SPREADING THE PASSION — Building upon last year's program, Liberty University welcomes Awakening 2011 to inspire students and guests to take action and get involved in the political process.

After attending and speaking at last year's Awakening event, Liberty alumnus Matt Mihelic said that he was encouraged by how many students left changed.

"I became very encouraged by the students around me who recognized the Christian responsibility in our civil society by bringing an eternal perspective to the pressing dilemmas of our time," Mihelic said. "Since society must reflect the Truth of God, it was cool to see young people becoming passionate about societal issues."

In addition to hearing from speakers, event attendees will also be able to go to movie showings. Movies such as "Maafa 21," "Courageous," the "Rise and Future of the Conservative

Movement", and "The Potential Inside", seek to inspire and inform viewers of Christian life and social issues.

Much of the event is comprised of 15 different breakout sessions which will cover a wide range of topics including abortion, child prostitution and sex trafficking, Sharia Law, the economy and the media. Not only will attendees be educated on the issues affecting America today, but a huge part of the conference will be encouragement and mobilization.

"We don't want people to come away from any of the events just being further educated," Staver said. "We want them to be encouraged that they can do something positive and give them how-to's on how they can be mobilized

together to advance our core values."

The Awakening 2011 will begin on April 8 during convocation with Lila Rose who became famous with the shocking undercover videos taken in Planned Parenthood clinics. The conference will conclude on April 9, Saturday night, with what organizers are calling a "New Revolution Celebration." Staver believes this time, which will feature a concert by Sonic Flood, will be the highlight of the two day event.

For more information and to reserve a free ticket for the Awakening 2011, go to www.the-Awakening2011.com.

◆ ABRAHAM is a news writer.

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Flames win Winthrop series

Strong pitching, solid defense kept Friday's double header close

KATHERINE LACAZE
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Seven Evans trotted off the mound, blew some warm breath over his fingers and nodded to the crowd applauding his six-strikeout effort in game three of Liberty's weekend series against Winthrop. Three innings later he watched the final out recorded and Liberty's record improve to 14-11 (5-1 BSC) as the Flames took two out of three from the Eagles.

The Flames opened the series with a 5-2 win in the first game of Friday's doubleheader. Winthrop out-hit Liberty 9-6, but games are not won by hits alone. Winthrop's three errors allowed the Flames to move runners into scoring positions more often than the Eagles.

But despite exemplary defensive effort against the Eagles, the Flames did not produce enough hits in the second game. Poor offense by the Flames, along with an error in the ninth inning, allowed the Eagles to obtain the win.

"(John) Niggli and our pitching staff have been great. Our hitters did not compete," head coach Jim Toman said. "We've been standing by and letting our pitchers throw complete games and help us to wins. Our hitters haven't done nearly enough. We were disappointed in their competitiveness."

The Eagles pitcher for the second game, Robert Lake, pitched a good game and only let the Flames get a total of five hits. Although Lake's stats have only been mediocre so far this year, both Toman and senior second baseman Austin Taylor said Lake deserves credit for his performance Friday night, which was his first win this season.

"His numbers going into the game haven't been great, so someone's been hitting them," Toman said. "We certainly didn't."

In Saturday's rubber-game finale, the Flames offense came alive.

Shortstop Matt Williams collected five RBIs on four hits to lead the team's 20-hit performance en route to a 16-7 routing of the Eagles.

See **BASEBALL** on B2

BASEBALL — Out-fielder Michael Robertson and the Flames took care of business Friday and Saturday afternoons.

CHRIS MAHES

Lacrosse builds three-game winning streak

Goalie Kristen Masullo No. 1 in NCAA Division 1

JENNA VANDEN BROOK
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The Lady Flames lacrosse team had a victorious week winning Tuesday's, Friday's and Sunday's home games 14-13, 15-10 and 19-9 respectively, triumphing in their first conference game and housing a No. 1 ranked goalie to boot.

It was announced after the team's Tuesday game that Liberty goalie, freshman Kristen Masullo, is currently ranked the No. 1 goalie in NCAA Division 1 women's lacrosse. Beating out 85 other goalies for the prestigious position, Masullo is modest in her success.

"It's definitely a God-thing and a team-thing," Masullo said. "It wouldn't have happened without the support of my teammates, my coaches, my family and God pushing me through all of it because it's a lot of hard work. It takes a lot of hard work to get there and it's nice to see that payoff."

Masullo has an average of 14 saves per game, the highest among NCAA Division 1 goalies. She had a total of 55 saves in the first four games of this season.

"(The coaches) are out there every day and they make practice fun," Masullo said. "It's a good family and team community to be on. That's literally what helps me to be better."

Masullo and her teammates played Fresno State at Osborne Stadium Tuesday. The Lady Flames got off to a quick start scoring twice in less than five minutes of the first half. Freshman Nina Dunay, the game's high scorer with five goals, scored the first goal followed closely by junior captain Kristin Crowley who had



UNSTOPPABLE — Freshman Nina Dunay's five goals against Fresno State lifted the Lady Flames over the Lady Bulldogs in a 14-13 win. Dunay has 21 goals on the year.

an assist from junior Cammille Little.

Tuesday's game marked Dunay's third game this season in which she scored at least five goals. Crowley and freshman Karis Walborn finished with three goals each. Masullo had 14 saves while Little, freshman Jen Moyer and sophomore Candice Parsons each added a point to Liberty's total score.

Liberty's offense dominated much of the game, eventually bringing the Lady Flames to a 14-9 lead over the Bulldogs in the second

half.

With just over three minutes left in the second half, Fresno State started to close the gap. In only two minutes, Fresno State brought the score to 14-13 with Liberty in the lead.

Liberty's defense was able to hold back Fresno State's determined offense to win the game with a final score of 14-13.

"We definitely struggled in the last 10 minutes of the game," head coach Regan Denham said. "(We) kind of let the other team back in,

we were still obviously still able to come up with the win so we're excited about that."

Only three days later, despite cold and cloudy weather, more than 100 fans piled into Osborne Stadium to cheer on the Lady Flames in their first conference game of the season against Detroit Mercy.

To start off the game, Detroit Mercy took possession of the ball and scored less than 15 seconds into the first half and again one minute later. Detroit Mercy's third attempt at a score was saved by Masullo.

After a slow start, Liberty picked up, scoring six points in a row with no additional goals by Detroit Mercy. Walborn, Dunay, Moyer, freshman Jen Freymond and sophomore Audra Menez each made a mark during the nine-minute span.

Again, at the beginning of the second half, the Titans took control and scored in under a minute but the Lady Flames remained in the lead and did not let the Titans keep their drive.

"(In) Tuesday's game we lost our momentum and (Fresno State) came back but this game we stayed pumped the entire time," Walborn said. "We didn't let it get to our heads, the fact that we were up. We kept the mindset that it was 0-0."

With eight minutes left in the second half, Dunay was injured and left the playing field. Though absent from play for the rest of the game, Dunay scored three points for the Lady Flames. Also scoring three a piece were Walborn and Menez.

Freshman Jordan Richardson, junior Anna Starling and junior Annessa Jamison also scored for Liberty with one goal each. Freymond and Menez made the first goals of their careers during Friday's game.

See **LACROSSE** on B2



CHRIS MATHEIS

FORWARD PROGRESS — The Lady Flames lacrosse team is making national waves thanks to the play of goalie Kristen Masullo and midfielder Nina Dunay.

LACROSSE *continued from B1*

It was a passing game for Liberty's offense, which were able to get around Detroit Mercy's determined defense with quick and successful passes.

"We were working on being able to hold the ball and attack with our stall and they did an awesome job," Denham said.

The Titans depended on their defense, putting several defenders on one Liberty offender on numerous occasions. Ultimately, Liberty's offense prevailed.

"We are excited about this win, first win in the conference, so we are really excited about this win," Denham said.

Masullo had a total of 13 saves against Detroit Mercy and spent the entire 60 minutes of the game fiercely guarding Liberty's goal.

To prepare for the week's games, the Lady Flames were pushed to their limit over spring break with two-a-days starting mercilessly early in the morning and several grueling

games over break.

"It was very hard but it's definitely paying off. It was very smart on our coaches' parts to have us do that," Walborn said.

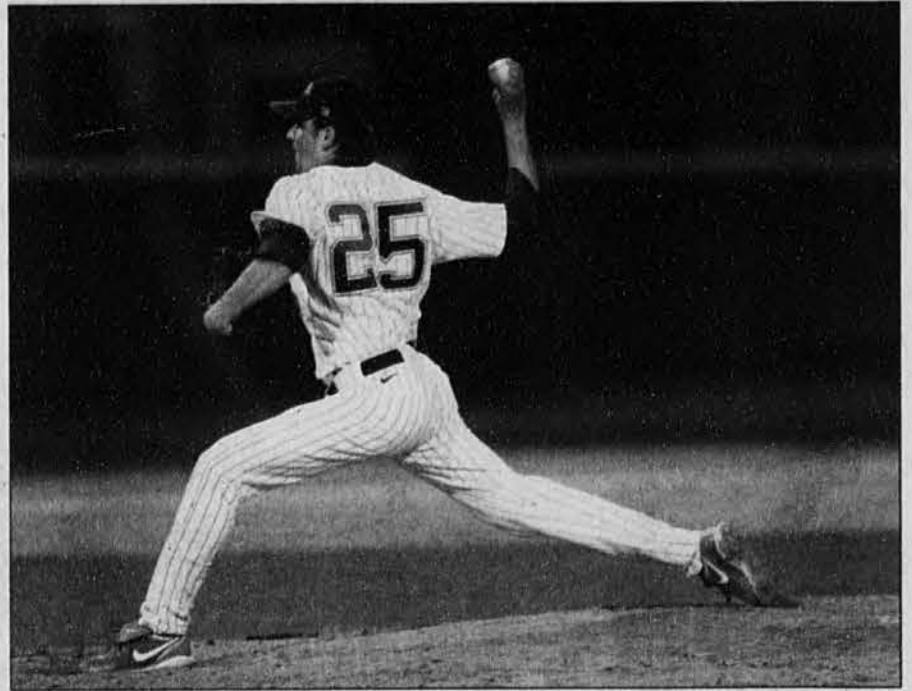
The Lady Flames kept their winning streak alive with a 19-9 win over the Lady Bison of Howard University Sunday.

Menez and Moyer each netted five apiece for the Lady Flames, while Crowley, Walborn, Freymond and freshman Emily Dinsmore each added goals.

The Lady Flames three-game winning streak makes them 2-0 in conference play, 4-0 in home games at Osborne Stadium and 4-3 for the season.

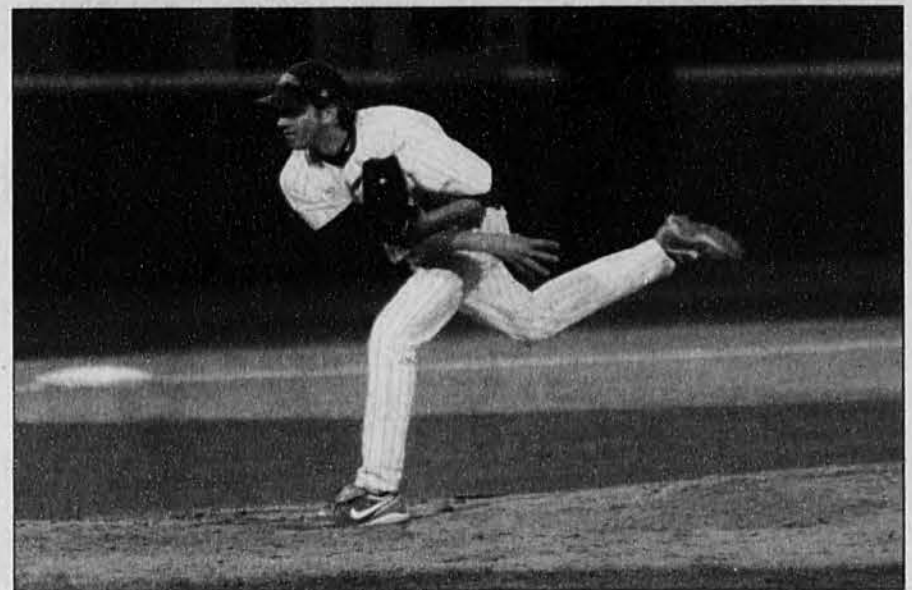
The Lady Flames hope to keep their momentum as they host Virginia Tech on March 29 at 4 p.m. and then travel to Jacksonville on April 1.

◆ **VANDEN BROOK** is a sports writer.



PHOTOS BY RUTH HARRY

ACE OF K'S — Junior right-hander John Niggli racked up seven strikeouts, one out shy of a complete game. Starters Keegan Linza, Niggli and Steven Evans combined for 18 total strikeouts over the course of the weekend.



BASEBALL *continued from B1*

Taylor batted four runs in, including a three-run blast over the wall.

The Eagles were held scoreless after six innings while the Flames racked up 12 runs. A seventh-inning Winthrop rally proved in vain in light of the cavernous deficit the Eagles faced. Liberty's advantage was insurmountable.

The Flames begin a four-game road trip to Richmond, Va. to take on Virginia Commonwealth University March 29 and Conway, S.C., to battle Coastal Carolina April 1 through April 3. The April 2 Coastal Carolina game will be featured on ESPNU airing at 4 p.m.

◆ **LACAZE** is a sports writer.



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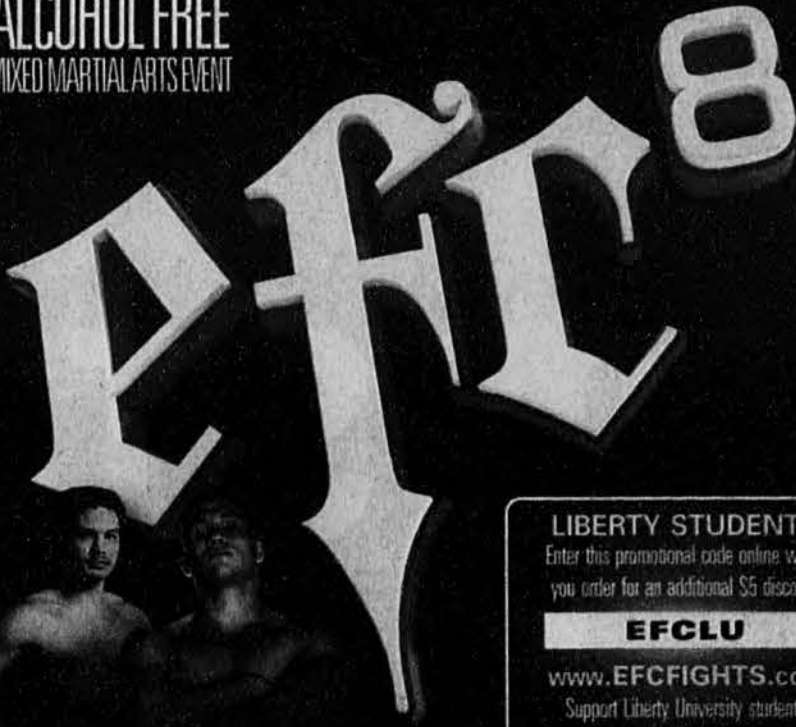
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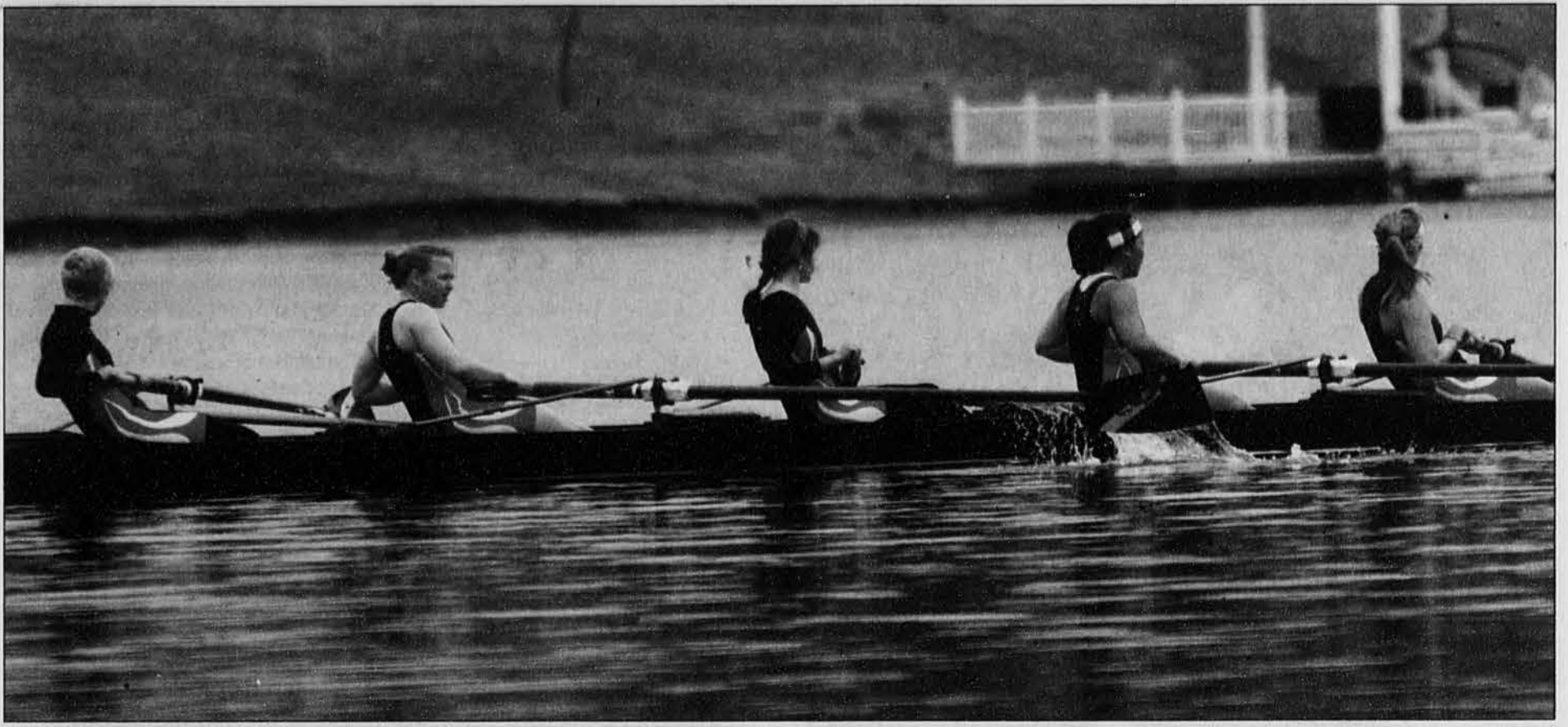
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RUTH BOHRY

CREW NOW AT LIBERTY — Rowers representing Liberty's newly formed crew team slice through Ivy Lake's waters in their first home regatta duel with William and Mary.

First regatta held on LU's Ivy Lake

GABRIEL FOWLER
gfowler2@liberty.edu

With temperatures hovering in the 30s, rowers and spectators cocooned themselves in blankets to keep warm, but as launch time for Liberty's first home regatta approached, crew members suited up and hit the water rowing.

Saturday marked the first William and Mary/Liberty University Duel Regatta, held at Ivy Lake in Lynchburg. Both teams plan for this to be an annual event.

Hugs from supporting parents and an atmosphere of slight confusion and excitement filled the boathouse as crew members got into uniform, looked over the race schedule and boats were carried down to the launch pad.

A large turnout brought loud cheering and

plenty of support. Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. also made an appearance at his first ever regatta.

"We are very appreciative of the fans," head coach Mark Furler said.

Throughout the day, there were a total of four women's races and four men's races.

From the start of the regatta, William and Mary took control and placed first in all eight races.

Although Liberty did not come out on top, team members showed heart with every row stroke.

"I threw up twice in the last part of the race, but you don't stop," varsity rower Charlie Vazquez said. "It was the most exciting race I've ever had."

"The teams performed quite well, and there were a lot of close races," Furler said. "We knew William and Mary was very good,

but we wanted to race against a team that was going to push us and was a growing program like we are."

The final race of the day was a hat-race, which consists of a random drawing of rowers that are placed in a boat and sent out on the water to race. This also means that if a crew member is not bisseptual, one who can row on both sides of the boat, the race can be very interesting and difficult.

"It is just a lot of fun to mix up rowers," varsity captain Austin Coombs said. "It is all just for fun."

There are a few traditions that Liberty, as well as other schools, have during crew races. The first is throwing the winning coxswain into the water after the race. The second is throwing someone celebrating a birthday into the water, a tradition varsity women's captain Amy McGowan dreaded throughout the day.

"It's tradition, it just sucks to be a March baby," McGowan said.

"Liberty crew members not only participate in regatta's and gain experience; but a few are interested in traveling on a missions trip.

"We want to go to South Africa and row and spread the word of God," Vickie Vazquez, novice rower said.

Coach Furler presented William and Mary head coach Nathan Walker with the first duel regatta trophy.

"There were a number of my rowers that came up to me throughout the day and said Liberty has some of the nicest rowers we have ever met," Walker said.

The day ended with traditions, laughter and a prayer of thanks and travel safety by Furler.

◆ FOWLER is a sports writer.

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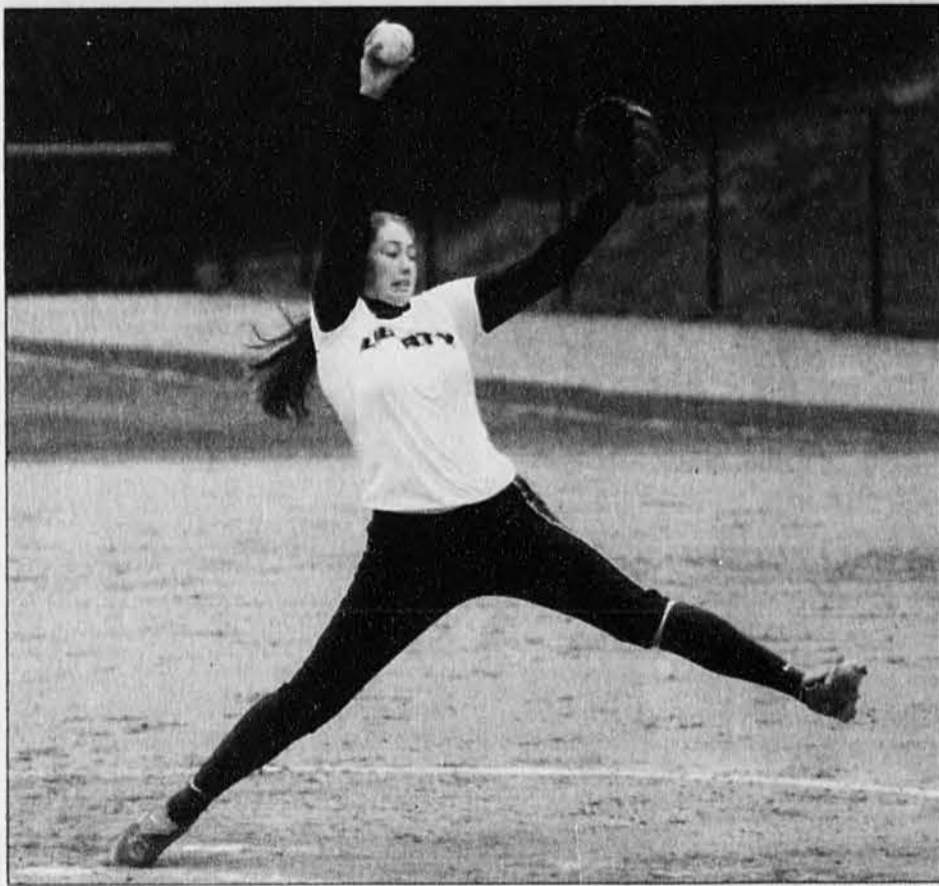
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Lady Flames split Radford doubleheader



DERRICK BATTLE
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On an unusually cold spring Saturday afternoon, the Liberty Flames softball team hosted the Radford Highlanders in a doubleheader.

The Lady Flames lost the first leg despite a furious late game rally. Early in the game, Radford excelled to a 4-0 lead scoring two runs in the second inning and scored twice in the top of the third inning off a two-run homer. In the bottom of the fourth, Liberty closed the gap, scoring two runs off a Meredith Crisante double. In the seventh inning, Jill Stephens slammed a solo homer over the center field fence. The 5-2 lead was reduced to a slim 5-4 margin with three outs to go, but the Lady Flames could not produce another run. The Radford defense escaped with a victory.

In the second leg of the doubleheader, the Lady Flames bats continued to stay active. Liberty scored 11 runs off of four home

runs, ending the game in the fifth inning. Liberty won in an 11-2 rout. Radford began the scoring frenzy delivering a run in the top of the first. From there Liberty scored six unanswered runs before Radford scored at the top of fourth inning. Liberty players Keely McMillon, Ashley Bensinger, Kelly Strickland and Amber DePasquale contacted for home runs. Kaylee West and Jenny Law, tallied in a combined three runs batted in. Pitcher Katrina Johnson pitched five innings and allowed only two runs. Johnson's off-speed pitch restricted Radford to just three hits.

After the doubleheader Liberty improved its record to 10-13 (1-1 BSC). The Lady Flames host the Virginia Cavaliers in a doubleheader before traveling to take on the Winthrop Eagles in a doubleheader on April 2.

◆ **BATTLE** is a sports writer.

PITCHING THE WIN — (LEFT) Sophomore pitcher Katrina Johnson got the Lady Flames win Saturday afternoon over the Radford Lady Highlanders.

editorial: NCAA basketball has playoff system right

NATE BROWN
nbrown4@liberty.edu

March 1, my bracket looked like this: TCU, Auburn, Oregon, Wisconsin, LSU, Stanford Arkansas and Boise State going to the Elite Eight.

My tournament proceeds as follows: TCU wins everything. Auburn's leading point guard is involved in a \$500,000 scandal, Andrew Luck hits the game winning shot for Stanford in the Final Four round and Oregon records the first ever 180-point game (while wearing eight different uniform combinations throughout the course of the tournament).

LSU claims to have "tiger bleauxd." Wait, wrong sport, genius.

This is basketball. To epitomize the level

of attention I pay to the college basketball season apart from March, I think I went to school with a guy named George Mason. Needless to say, my March Madness bracket was built mainly out of incredibly safe picks, baseless guessing and maybe a few flips of a quarter.

Which must be the formula used in the BCS football rankings.

The only good thing about the month of March for NCAA football fans is something to point to that makes playoff sense. A tournament. How novel.

NCAA basketball has had it right since 1939 upon the conception of a national tournament to decide the best of the best. As of 2011, 68 teams who made the "dance," battled bracket by bracket and to the victor, a more elite bracket was awarded.

NCAA football has had it wrong since 1998.

What is that quote? "Defense wins championships?" Not in NCAA football. Computers and Cam Newton's father win championships.

So how can this be corrected? John Wooden would say "tournament."

Here's how it should be broken down. The champion teams as decided by conference record and aggregate point differential from overall records from the power conferences anchor six major regions (like the four in basketball). The mid-majors and smaller DI schools are eligible by record to compete in the tournament according geographically to where that school aligns with the power conference.

For example, Liberty (representing the Big South) might play in the same bracket anchored by Virginia Tech (representing the ACC).

The tournament begins at the end of regular season with each conference determining a conference champion.

From that pool, teams play in regional brackets, just like in high school, or NCAA March basketball. Wins advance teams through their regional brackets on to higher levels.

What about the Bowl system? The Bowl system is still employed, but for a different cause. The bowls are merely locations that host tournament play, rather than inherent championships.

For example, the Elite Eight "Bowl" for the southeast region may feature two teams competing in the Sugar Bowl, trying to advance to the Final Four which may be held at a bidded-on location.

Playoffs have been the vehicle for defining championships from Pop Warner all the way to the NFL.

From junior high hoops to March Madness.

Playoffs? In college football?
Yes, Jim Mora. Playoffs.

◆ **BROWN** is the asst. sports editor.



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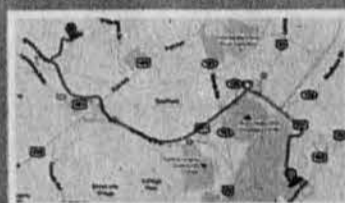
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Campus East dorms renumbered

SHELANNE JENNINGS
 sjennings@hotmail.com



LAURIA FOSTER

FORTY YEARS OF GROWTH - Campus East resident buildings will all have new numbers in the fall of 2011. The change will eliminate duplicate dorm numbers.

Growth and renovation have continued to shape Liberty University as its staff and students celebrate the 40th anniversary of its creation. Along with numerous upgrades in academic and athletic buildings around campus, Liberty's Campus East resident buildings will be given a new numbering system in the fall of 2011 that will improve campus directions and make way for future expansion.

"This (change) is a couple of different projects rolled into one," Director of Financial Research Richard Martin said. "The resident hall numbers and even some of the building numbers that related with other facilities had to change."

This change is part of a larger effort to create easier navigation in emergency situations, according to Martin, who worked with LUPD and the City of Lynchburg to develop this new system.

"Our primary issue is safety," Martin said. Many times in the past students have called for help and have been unclear of their whereabouts, according to LUPD Chief of Police Col. Richard Hinkley. This causes difficulty for emergency personnel who are sent to help.

"If they say 'I'm in dorm 22' and hang up before we can ask which one, we have a problem," Hinkley said.

In times when emergency crews have been brought to campus to aid in an incident, Hinkley said that they could not find their way to the site on their own.

"As soon as the fire department or other

emergency vehicles come on campus, they are being led by an LUPD car or security car to help them get to that point," Hinkley said. "As the university grows, there will come a time when we won't be able to do that. We'll just need them to get there."

The current Campus East numbers, E01 to E41, will soon become dorm numbers E41 to E94. This change will eliminate the chance of confusion between Main and East Campus dorms that have the same building number. Dorms located on Tunnel Court will be labelled E90 through E94. Those on City View Lane will be given numbers E72 through E85, Towns Court dorms will be numbers E70 and E71, and East Campus Drive dorms will run from E41 to E54.

"We wanted the block of numbers to correspond with a turn and we wanted the numbers to have the lower numbers to be at

the northern side of campus and to get larger as you move south," Martin said.

"That's something that is done in cities as well," Hinkley said. "Everything is run from north to south."

Numbers E60 to 69 have been reserved for dorms yet to be built behind the Wingate hotel, towards Liberty's Snowflex.

Though dorm numbers could have been changed on main campus as well, Hinkley said that they tried to honor the tradition of those dorms by keeping them the same.

"It would be least painful to change the East numbers and leave alone dorms like dorm 8 on the Circle," Hinkley said.

Prior to this year, many of the roads on campus either remained nameless or had names which duplicated other Lynchburg roads. Thanks to LUPD's work in the fall semester of 2010, Liberty's Campus East now

owns the road names Tunnel Court, City View Lane, Towns Court and East Campus Drive, which will soon be implemented into the physical addresses of student resident halls.

The hope for these changes is to make the layout make sense from the perspective of a city planner, according to Hinkley and Martin.

"(Up to this point) we only had a handful of usable address points that could be used to notify people outside of LU to know where to go, for example, on main campus, the entire main campus' address is 1971 University Blvd.," Martin said. "If you went onto Google maps, that would bring you to somewhere near (the Barnes and Noble Bookstore.)"

As the campus continues to grow, Martin and Hinkley see a campus-wide physical address as a large detriment.

"The (universal) address becomes less and less useful over time," Martin said. "(On the other hand) if dispatch were to receive a specific address, there would be no need for an additional explanation."

The dorm numbers will not change until after graduation in May. Signs will then be posted to direct campus residents.

When registering for housing for the fall semester, the renumbering and dorm addresses will be listed alongside the current numbering system to minimize any possible confusion.

A map of Liberty University's housing and road changes can be found under Department Services GIS at lynchburgva.gov.

◆ JENNINGS is a feature writer.

Out & about

Events to LOOK OUT for in the next few weeks.

March 29

'A Writer's Life'

The Center for Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) will be presenting this year's writer's panel in DH 1090 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The panel will include Dr. Harold Willmington, Dr. Ed Hindson, Professor Linda Cooper and others. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for college students. For more information, visit the CPCE website which can be found through the Splash page.

March 30

First Israel Emphasis Week

This week, Liberty University's Stand with Israel will be hosting the first Israel Emphasis Week. Beginning with Convocation on Monday, March 28, the week will feature various events and will conclude on Saturday, April 2 with a 'Night to Honor Israel' Gala at 7:30 p.m. The gala will be held in the Schilling Center and tickets for the gala can be purchased at the Liberty University Box Office. For

more information, 434-851-2776 or email standwithisrael@liberty.edu.

April 1

'The Out and About tour'—'downhere' with special guest Rush of Fools

Student Activities will be hosting a concert featuring 'downhere' and special guest Rush of Fools on Friday, April 1 in the Vines Center beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are now available at ticketreturn.com. The cost for students is \$7 in advance (use code SA2011 for student price). For more information, email studentactivitiesinfo@liberty.edu, call 434-592-3061 or visit the student activities website at liberty.edu/campusrec/studentactivities/.

April 8-9

The Awakening — Raising Our Voices

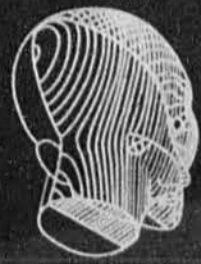
The Freedom Federation will be sponsoring the second annual Awakening Conference. The conference will be held at Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) and the Liberty University School of Law.

The event will kick off Friday at 10 a.m. with Convocation. Among the speakers who have been invited to the event are Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Although the event is free, tickets are required and can be found at iTickets.com. For more information or to register, visit theawakening2011.com or call 877-810-1776.

April 16


Seabird

Student Activities will be hosting a free concert at the Tilley Student Center starting at 9 p.m. Seabird will be performing for the night. For more information, contact student activities at 434-592-3061 or studentactivitiesinfo@liberty.edu.



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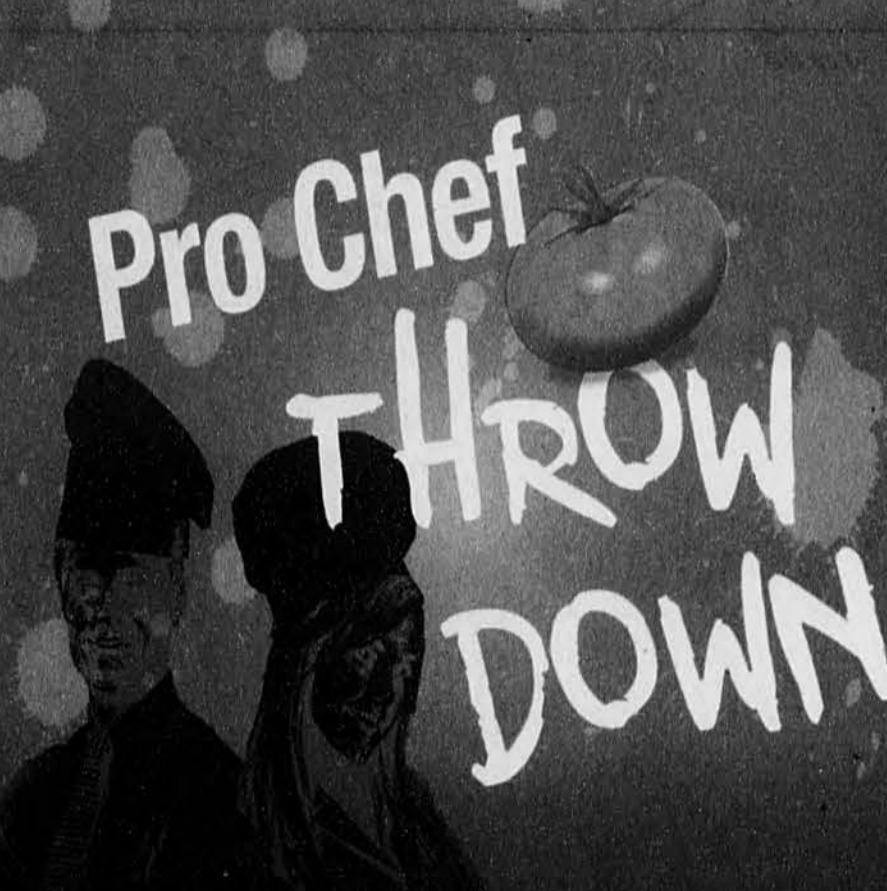


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Celebrating 10 years of amazement

TIFFANY EDWARDS
tredwards2@liberty.edu

Two little girls crawled through the giant metal caterpillar outside the green-trimmed brick building on Ninth Street, while their parents waited in line to join Amazement Square's 10th birthday celebration.

The day also marked Amazement Square's one millionth visitor, won by Lynchburg resident Jared Harris, who had come to the children's museum with his mother Beth Harris, according to Amazement Square's Marketing and Events Coordinator Megan Rapp.

The children's museum opened on March 24, 2001 to serve parents and teachers in the Central Virginia area by providing children with hands-on educational activities, according to Amazement Square's 2010 Year In Review Guide. The museum gave free admission to children aged 13 and younger.

"Amazement Square is a four-story, interactive educational children's museum. Everything in the museum is geared towards children, with hands-on activities where they can learn about science, history, art or different world cultures through interactive exhibits," Rapp said.

Amazement Square also schedules tours for school field trips and offers yearly membership deals for parents and teachers who frequent the facility.

"Parents should bring their children here because it's a chance for parents to learn and have fun with their children," Rapp said.

Lynchburg resident Davina Mayo-Perry visits Amazement Square often with her husband and their five children, ages 16 years to 1 month old.

"Everything is interactive, so they aren't just having fun, they are learning," Mayo-Perry said. "Even my older children love it. It's good for the community because it gets children and their parents out of the house and gets them active."

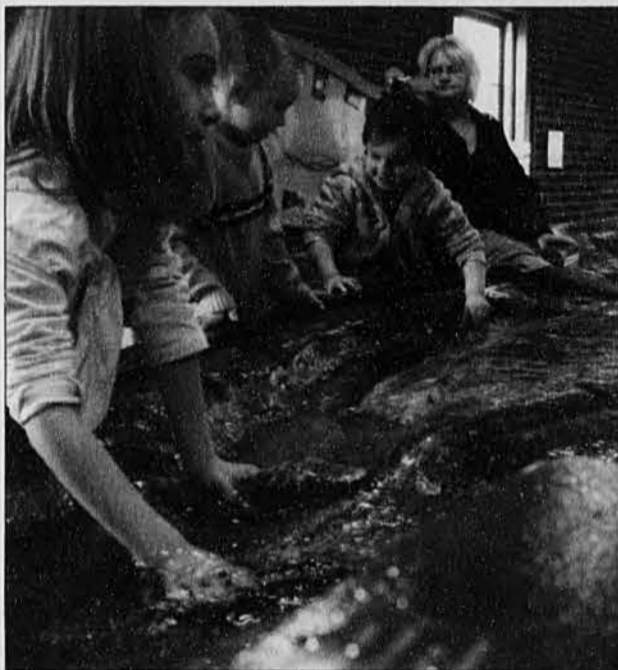
Amazement Square accepts volunteers for community service, as well as interns in various areas such as marketing and education. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and children, and \$6 for seniors and groups of 10 or more with advance notice. For more information about working with Amazement Square visit www.amazementsquare.org.

◆ Edwards is the feature editor.



TIFFANY EDWARDS

TEN YEARS OF TOUCHING LIVES — Lynchburg children's museum Amazement Square hosted its 10th birthday celebration. The museum features interactive exhibits about science, history and world cultures for children.



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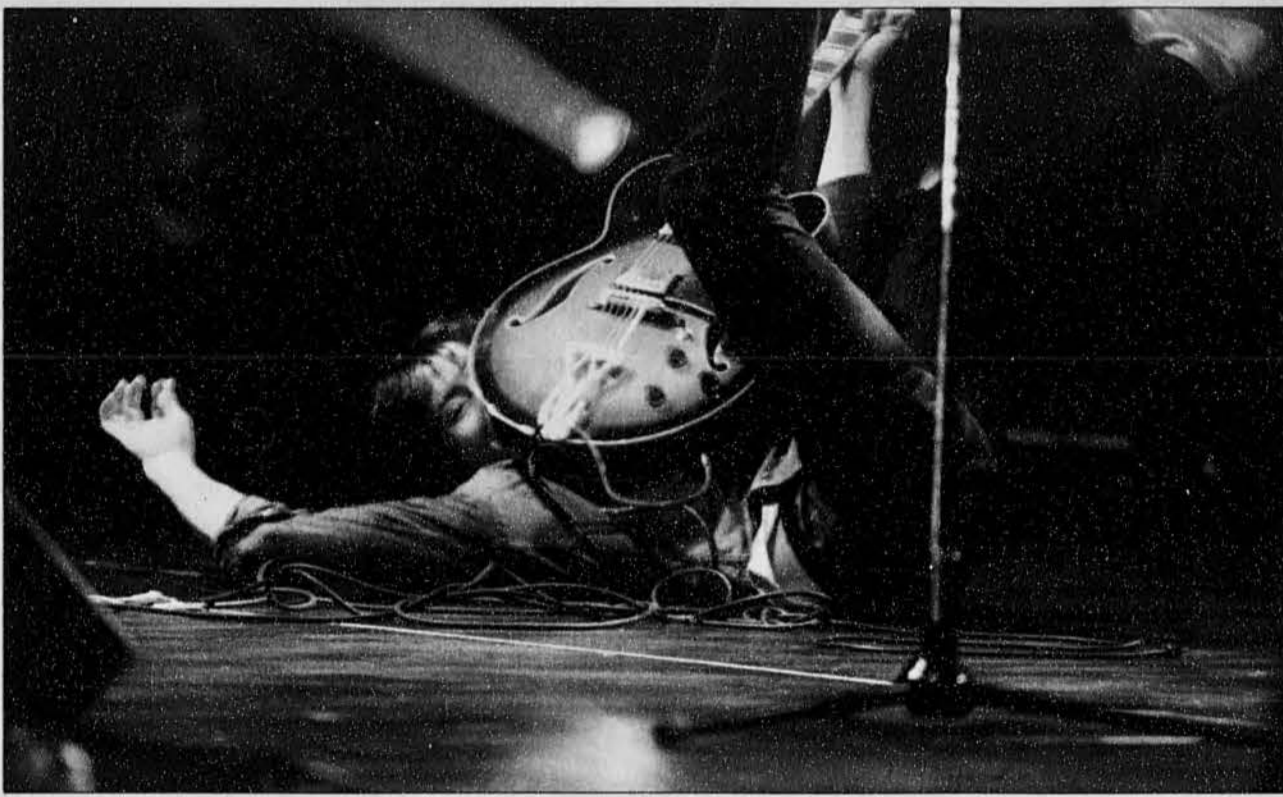
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