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The Liberty Champion

Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Vol. 15, No. 24

THOMPSON WINS SGA CHANGES HANDS

United SGA is promised in wake of Thompson's presidential election triumph

By CHRIS EDWARDS
Champion Reporter

Alfred Thompson leaned against the outside of the LU Bookstore and chewed on his fingers.

Jeff Coleman had to take a walk. A small crowd gathered around the Student Government office to wait. After two weeks of campaigning, a record crowd of voters and a run-off election, everyone on hand was ready for the SGA to finally officially crown its new president.

And when the results were tallied and announced, it was Thompson, by a vote count of 728 to 638, who emerged victorious over Coleman.

The total voter count of 1,366 voters in SGA's first run-off election was smaller than the record crowd of 1,520 who turned out April 20.

Amidst much hugging and jubilation, Thompson took the chance to address his small group of supporters and dedicate this win to his fallen friend Mike Harris, an LU student and Dorm 7-2 resident who was killed in a car accident April 19.

Thompson expressed his weariness after a long two weeks and urged his supporters to "make SGA count and work for students at LU."

"This was a Cinderella season ... a David vs. Goliath battle," Thompson said, "but I am surprised that we did it and I thank God for it."

Thompson also praised his opponent and said, "A young man like Jeff Coleman ... he has a lot of talents and abilities ... and to be elected over a guy like that is a great honor. It's very humbling."

Coleman was wrapped in an embrace after the announcement by his campaign team and his Tradition '98 ticket mates Richard Younts and Mike Kostlew, who were previously elected as executive vice-president and vice-president of student services, respectively.

Folled again in his second attempt to win the top spot in SGA, Coleman was distressed over the loss, but



HOW SWEET IT IS - Alfred Thompson savors his election as Student Government president Friday night. He defeated Jeff Coleman in a hotly contested runoff election, after finishing second in the first round.

upbeat about his involvement in student government.

"We said from the onset that we had things against us," said Coleman. "Alfred's got a terrific team ... and it's yet to be determined in an official capacity, but I would like to be involved in SGA next year."

Younts also commented on the results and said both he and Kostlew are prepared to work with the student body regardless of their ticket-mate's loss.

"Obviously I was hoping Jeff would win, but Alfred's a good guy and I'm ready to work with him. Michael and I will try as much as we can to get those things (in their platform) implemented," he said.

Consistently barraged by hugs from well-wishers and supporters, Thompson also commented on his upcoming administration and working with the Tradition '98 ticket.

"I am going to sit down with them (Younts and Kostlew) and work with them and make SGA happen. These men are Christian young men ... and they will be able to sit down and

clearly be able to accomplish great things for the Lord Jesus Christ," said Thompson. "I look at it this way ... what is your motivation for running, and if their motivation is for SGA to become a viable, great organization, we can make it happen."

After noting that his first priority is to set up a transition team and a cabinet for next year, Thompson talked about his role as SGA president, now that campaigning is complete.

"I see my role as an advisory role ... but also an active role ... getting out there with students, shaking hands with students and loving students where they are," said Thompson. "... finding out their needs and addressing them with confidence and with gifted people that can do some things about it."



THE AGONY OF DEFEAT - Jeff Coleman reacts to his loss in the runoff election.

Rick Gage to keynote next SEW

By RICK BOYER
News Editor

Liberty students are in for a treat next year as Rick Gage brings his "Go Tell Crusade" to town for Spiritual Emphasis Week. The week of Sept. 6-9 will see many musicians and preachers descend on the Vines Center in what Gage terms a "Super Conference for the students."

Gage said next semester's SEW will be more exciting than ever. "I made the proposal to do something different from ... the last many years," he said. He encouraged the campus pastor's office to promote next semester's event thoroughly. "I really have challenged them to be more aggressive than they've ever been before."

That won't be a problem, according to Campus Pastor Rob Jackson. Jackson said he is as excited as Gage about the event. "It's really a new level" for SEW, he said.

Among the features next fall, students will be entertained by musicians Aaron-Jeffrey and Charles Billingsley. Other singers are also being lined up to appear. Eric Lovett and Eternal Praise and the Sounds of Liberty will add a local touch.

Speakers, besides Gage, will include writer Josh McDowell, Randy Hogue and Scott Camp.

Jackson had high praise for the lineup of speakers. "Rick's bringing in the best speakers in the country," he said.

Students will also enjoy many of Liberty's own pastors and spiritual leaders during the crusade.

Gage, who coached football at LU under former coach Morgan Hout, has been an evangelist since 1986. He has spoken to more than one million students in the public schools since then, plus thousands of college students.

In one recent conference at Coastal Carolina, Gage spoke to over 20,000 people, plus 13,000 in the public schools. He said more than 1,300 decisions were made.

That crusade was just one of many like it. "We try to do from four to six a year, plus four annual

Please see Gage on Page A 2

LU ministry major dies in car accident

Mike Harris remembered as a man of simple faith

By LANCE OLSHOVSKY
Champion Reporter

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout.... Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

Family and friends are comforted by the extent of Michael Harris' faith.

"It helps to know that he is a lot better off than he was and that he is not hurting anymore," said

Barbara Perkins, Harris' mother.

On Sunday, April 19 at 1p.m., after leaving church and a friend's house, the 21-year-old junior from Liberty University made a U-turn into the path of an oncoming van. The van collided with the 8-year-old red Geo Storm driven by Harris.

Rescue workers at the scene repeatedly recommended that Harris go to the hospital. He refused. After the accident, he called a pastor at his church to come and get him.

"He got his books he needed for school out of his car," his mother said later. "He thought he was OK."

As Harris sat in the police car helping with the police report, he began having trouble catching his breath. The pastor from his church took him

to a local hospital only a few blocks from the scene of the accident.

A nurse at the hospital called Harris' mother and she was able to talk to him for about 10 minutes.

"I knew he was hurting bad," his mother said. She said that he talked about school, his car and the pain he was feeling. She arrived at the hospital, then watched as nurses and physicians tried to revive her youngest son.

But at 4p.m. with his mother at his bedside, Michael Harris died—only three weeks away from his 22nd birthday.

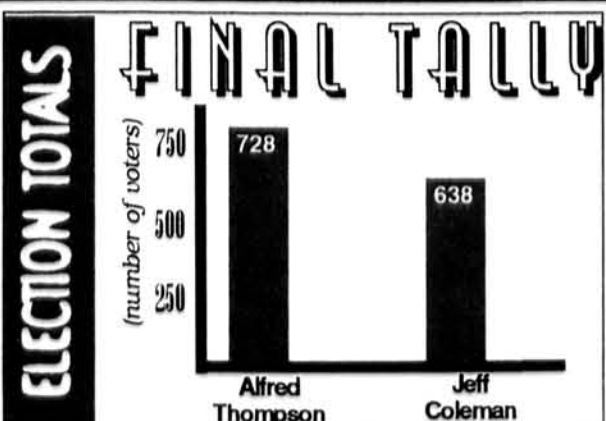
"The hardest thing I had to do was see him die," Perkins said. "I don't think there is anything that could be worse."

About 500 family and friends from the

University joined together in Danville last Monday night at Third Avenue Congregational Christian Church in a memorial service to remember the life of Michael Harris.

Freddy Vicks, senior pastor of Harris' church, said that he watched Harris' belief in God evolve, as he grew from a small child to a young man who guided the church's youth. He also said that it will necessarily take a long time for the church's youth — and all of those touched by Harris — to get over his sudden and untimely death.

"A wound is inflicted," he said. "That's what death does. A wounded heart has to heal. As the days and nights go by, the wound will heal. But our lives will never be the same because Michael is not here."



Day	Weather	High	Low
Wed.	Mostly cloudy	62	44
Thur.	Showers	60	53
Fri.	Thunder showers	74	54
Sat.	Partly cloudy	76	53
Sun.	Partly sunny	74	52

Inside:

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- Life examines big band pg. 5
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- Suzanne tries to get away with one pg. 8
- Jen's not teacher's pet anymore pg. 8
- Take me home. Matt defends W.Va. pg. 12
- Convocation:**
Wed.—Dr. Jerry Falwell
Fri.—SGA
Mon.—Exams

Here There

KDP Banquet: Kappa Delta Pi will hold its recognition banquet on Friday, May 8 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Linda T. Williams, kindergarten teacher at Heritage Elementary School. Tickets may be purchased in TE 139.

Hawaii Missions: Christian Youth Ministries of Hawaii is seeking students to serve this summer from June 2 to July 30 on the island of Molokai. The trip will cost \$2,000 and will include evangelizing and discipling. Students will help with youth camps, church and Sunday school ministries, visitation, a sports night, construction and more. CSER credit is available for the trip. Contact Mr. and Mrs. Bonheim in Gym 206 or at 582-2882 or 846-7487.

Chamber Brass: The Fine Arts Department presents a Chamber Brass recital, in the Fine Arts Building Recital Hall. Mr. Stephen Kerr is the director. The recital will be held on Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Drama Production: An original play, written and directed by Kent Dobson, will be performed at Liberty University's Lloyd Auditorium, Fine Arts 134. The play will be performed on Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. The play is sponsored by the English Department.

Summer Housing: Housing is available for international students who need to stay in Lynchburg over the summer. Contact Tom in the Minority and International Student Office, at ext. 2688.

Spanish Institute: The LU Summer Spanish Institute presents an opportunity to perfect your command of Spanish while ministering to people. The program will run from May 10-June 12. One week will be held on campus and the other four weeks in El Salvador. The cost will be \$3,270 per student.

Geoff Moore: Geoff Moore and the Distance will be in concert on Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Vines Center. Also appearing will be Out of Eden and special guest Small Town Poets.

Tickets are free for all Liberty students. Otherwise tickets cost \$10 general admission and \$12 reserved. They can be purchased at the LU Bookstore or the Student Life Office or at New Life Books and Gifts on Wards Road.

Correction: In the April 7 edition, the Champion ran a story on lock-in grants quoting George Rogers. We incorrectly identified him as "Accounting Director." His actual title is Vice President of Finance. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Crusade will hit Liberty next semester

Continued from Page 1

summer Go Tell camps," he said. Gage's ministry reaches overseas as well. This summer, Gage said, "I'll be making my eighth trip to Russia."

Gage said he is excited about the upcoming conference. "This is something that God strongly put in my heart when they asked me to do SEW," he said. "We want this to be a great success for the cause of Christ."

Gage especially wants to reach off-campus students during the week. "You've got a lot of off-campus students who don't come to all the evening services," he said, adding that he hopes to draw commuters this time. He feels that the quality of speakers and musicians will attract even larger crowds than past years.

Jackson said the outreach will be unprecedented. "We're gonna call ... every single town student

and invite them out," he said.

The outreach will not be limited to LU students alone. "We're also going to target Greater Lynchburg-area churches," Gage said. "It's just going to be a broader effort. We've enlarged the vision." He wants to see the event draw high schoolers and students from other colleges and churches.

Jackson agreed. "In the past, our main focus has been the campus population, but this year we're really going after town students and local churches. We're praying that (the crusade) has broad-based appeal for students, but it's much broader than that."

"The last two (Spiritual Emphasis Weeks) we've drawn about 1,600-1,700 students," Jackson said, adding that he hopes for a much larger participation this year.

He feels that the outreach to churches and town students

will increase the numbers of attendees. "We're going to target the community and we've never done that before."

Jackson has high hopes for the week's event. "Many of the students now have a good foundation spiritually," he said. "This will give us an opportunity to begin to reach out to those who will be freshmen next semester."

"It's going to be a two-pronged deal. The people who are really committed to the Lord, it'll give them another step of growth."

The other focus will be on the unsaved. "The past five years, we've consistently had people come to our services and get saved," he said, adding that he hopes to see that repeated next year.

Jackson said the goal of the University should be to reach out to the surrounding community, and that the crusade is an excellent opportunity to do that.

Gage hopes not only to glorify God, but to return something to the school that he feels has contributed so much to his personal growth.

"Liberty has a special place in my heart," he said. "I'll always be grateful to Dr. Falwell for the investment he made in my life. It's an opportunity ... to give back to Liberty University."

The campus pastor's office is already making plans to begin promoting the event. Gage said planners will invest in radio and newspaper advertisements to encourage student attendance for the week.

Jackson said Gage has invested significant financial resources already in promoting the crusade, with the goal of reaching the largest possible audience.

Both Jackson and Gage plan to spend substantial time this summer in preparation for the fall crusade.

Honors program accepts 29 inductees

By RICK BOYER
News Editor

The Liberty University Honors program has announced the acceptance of 29 students already for the fall semester of the 1998-99 school year.

This announcement comes in spite of a higher SAT admission standard imposed last semester.

According to Ruth Ferrell, administrative assistant to Honors Director Dr. Jim Nutter, under the previous set of requirements, a high school student wishing to enter the honors program would have had to sport an SAT score of 1200 and a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and above and finish in the top 10 percent of the class. Students are also required to submit a 3-5 page essay.

Under the new regimen, applicants must score at least a 1270 on the SAT. There was a simple reason for the change. "The SAT people had recentered the score and discovered that a 1270 now was equal to a 1200 several years

ago," said Nutter.

The requirement was re-evaluated, Ferrell said, "and the School of Education informed us that it (the old rule) was too low."

A student already at Liberty faces even tougher standards for entry. They must "have a cumulative GPA of 3.675 or above," Ferrell said.

"If they apply before May 1, we'll look at their past fall semester scores. If they apply after May 1, we'll look at their spring scores," she added.

The program is just as rigorous once students get in. Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA to stay in the program. Only about 130 LU students are currently enrolled.

Students must apply to the program within their first four semesters of college credit. Ferrell explained the procedure for new honors students.

"They have 100 and 200 level classes that are only

available to honors students," she said, "and there are only 25 seats in those classes."

"We try to have at least eight or nine 100 to 200-level honors classes," Ferrell said. Students must take at least two honors classes each semester for their first two years.

Once they reach their junior year, students "have to petition a 300-400 level class each semester, according to their majors," Ferrell said.

The petition process involves gathering information assigned by a professor, who then decides on the basis of the work's quality what the students assignments will be for the semester.

Nutter said that information comes in the form of "an additional paper, project or presentation."

The information gathered comes in handy later. "They take that information and use it for their thesis," Ferrell said. That thesis, Nutter said,

must be at least 25 pages long.

In spite of the high entrance standards and the intense work demanded to maintain an honors-quality grade, there are benefits for students committed enough to tackle the job.

There are significant benefits during the collegiate years. Honors students "register a week before anyone else. That gives them a chance to get into classes that are normally filled up," said Ferrell.

Graduating from the honors program has benefits later. "Typically, it's much more helpful to get into post-graduate programs," Nutter said, "medical school, law school, seminary, etc. Most of our honors kids will go on to graduate school."

Finally, honors students can expect to see employment advantages too. "It's the one thing that separates them from the masses," Nutter said. "It's a feather in their cap, so to speak."

Send postings a minimum of two weeks prior to the event to Rick Boyer c/o Liberty Champion.

Read the latest election news! From City Council to Congress, it's all on page 5.



Dear Amanda,
Congratulations!
What an exciting time in your life! Remember to always pray for God's direction because we know He has a wonderful future in store for you! We're proud of you and thankful for you!
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations!

Mark & Lisa
"That's a great story"
Laura & Leigh Anne





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Liberty bands jam at Greenstone to raise cash for teen crisis center

BY DOUG KRUEH
Champion Reporter

A compilation of 15 Liberty University bands performed for the youth of Lynchburg on Friday, April 24 at the Greenstone building in Forest, Va.

The festival, dubbed Greenstone '98, raised money for the Presbyterian home, a crisis center for teens.

The event raised over \$300 for the home, according to Valerie T. Henderson, the show's organizer and a student at Liberty.

"I wanted to reach the community and that's what happened. People were calling C-91 (for concert information)," Henderson said. The show attracted everyone from ages four

to 40. Teens from Timberlake Christian School, Lynchburg Christian Academy, Jefferson Forest High and Brookville High attended.

Starting at 5 p.m., bands played 25 minute sets of music, playing such styles as rock, punk, rap and hip hop to a crowd of over 400 students and community members. It lasted until 2:30 a.m. when the remaining handful of people moved up on stage and sang to an empty room.

Some bands were glad because they got exposure they deserved, while for other bands, like Peculiar People and CoCoo Beware, the evening was bittersweet, for it was their last performance.

A lot of planning went into this year's show.

The show even had its own website to promote the concert at www.liberty.edu/c91/G98. At the show, many people put forth a tremendous effort to make it come together.

Other than a few technical difficulties, there were no problems at the festival.

"The biggest thing I'm sad about is that I didn't get to see anyone perform," Henderson said afterward.

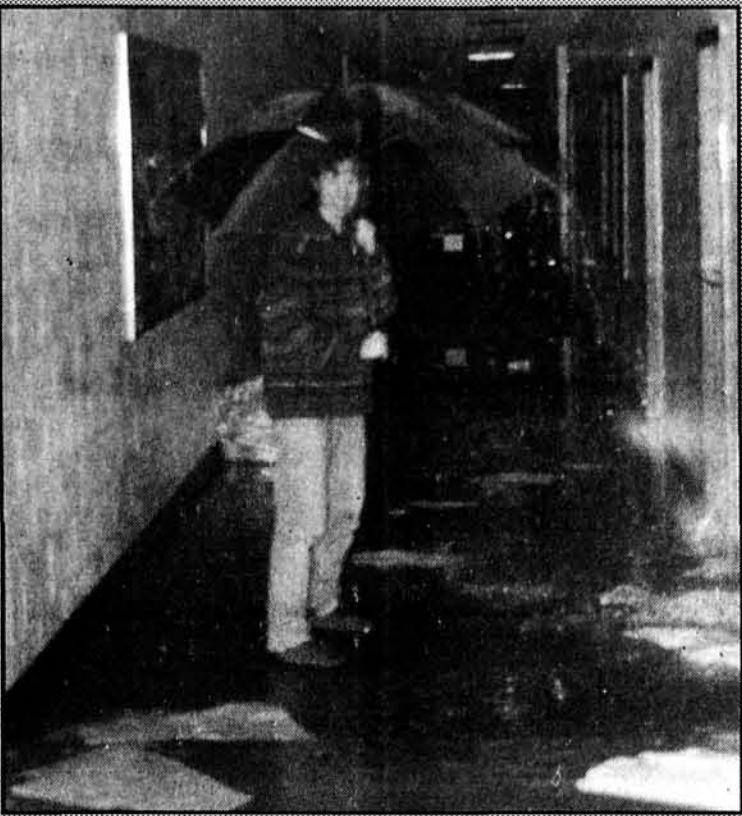
"We were so happy it went over so well," she continued. So well in fact, that Henderson wants to do it next year, but she wants to know if people want it to happen again.

Next year though Henderson would like to see more planning to attract more high school students. "It rocked; if you weren't there, you missed it," she concluded.



JAMMIN - Brad Flaherty of the Fallwells performs for an appreciative young audience

Niagara Falls ... LU style



Shawn Eldridge

THE SKY IS FALLING - Last week's heavy downpour ruined ceiling tiles in DeMoss, and left this surprised student forced to open her umbrella indoors. However, things quickly returned to normal after the storm passed over Lynchburg.

LU prof takes the good news abroad

BY RICK BOYER
News Editor

John's gospel states, "the people who sat in darkness saw a great light." Dr. Carolyn Diemer, an education professor at Liberty, is doing her part to help fulfill the Biblical prophecy.

Diemer, along with her husband, Dr. Carl Diemer, is planning a trip to Ukraine this summer with a group of students. It's the couple's third trip to the former Soviet Union, and their agenda is an ambitious one.

They plan to distribute at least 60,000 copies of Diemer's book, "What the Bible Teaches About Life After Death." Diemer says she wants to distribute more, and the only obstacle is sufficient financing to pay for printing.

"God has just overwhelmed me with the way He's worked the last three years," she said. "The first time I was able to raise over \$100,000 for this project, and last year, in just a month and a half, I raised \$116,000."

Now the need is even greater than before. "This year I've gotten enough money to get

60,000 copies, but they want a million and a half copies for the Ukrainian military."

Diemer has seen God open some doors that would never have been possible even a few years ago. "Last year, we distributed 175,000 copies to the Russian military and 175,000 copies in the public schools," she said, noting that this would not have been possible here in the United States.

Other plans for the trip include "ministering to young people who are victims of the Chernobyl disaster, kids in camps, as well as people in hospitals and orphanages," Diemer said.

The team's ministry will be extensive. "We'll have singers going (on the trip) and we'll have puppet shows. We've found that creative drama is very effective, and we'll be

leading the people in acting out Bible stories.

"We'll all be giving testimonies. I'll be demonstrating how to use the book to lead the people to Christ," she said.

The team will be working with the largest Baptist church in Ukraine, which has some 1,700 members.

Diemer said she is excited with the opportunity to minister to people who want to hear the Gospel.

"They are so eager to learn," she said. "They're not only hungry for the Bible, but hungry to know what will happen to them when they die."

That's what Diemer's book will tell them. She said it was written with clear illustrations that people of any age, in any culture, can understand. It's written so that even children can grasp it.

"The young people feel like

they've been cheated," she said, referring to years of spiritual repression under communism.

"They want to know the truth." Diemer said she "can't believe" how much God has blessed her efforts. She related experiences in the public schools when she gave invitations for people to be saved.

"Half of the group or more would raise their hands" every time, she said. "I've experienced it, and I can't believe it." Diemer said the idea for the book came from the Lord. "God gave me the idea," she said. "I give the plan of salvation, I give the sinner's prayer."

She has seen old walls come down before the power of the Gospel. After speaking in one school, she said, "the teacher came up with tears in her eyes and said, 'I was told you were the enemy. You're my good friend and I love you.' Then she hugged me."

Diemer hopes to see the Lord continue to work on the upcoming trip. She can't wait to see what happens this time.

"God has just overwhelmed me with the way He's worked the last three years."

- Dr. Carolyn Diemer

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Philippians 1:6

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THE CHAMPION STAFF

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Kerry Wells ...

"Do not follow where the path may lead - go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

"Be strong and courageous and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you."
- I Chronicles 28:20

"All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them."

To my best friend **Kerry Wells**, whom I love like a sister. Thank you for your friendship, laughs, tears, but most of all, thank you for always emulating our Heavenly Father! To the moon ... and back!
Laura

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'"
- Isaiah 30:21

"Greater love has no one than this, then to lay down his life for his friends."
- John 15:13

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Growing congregation results in future move to Liberty Mountain

BY BILL MEYER
Champion Reporter

Due to building and space limitations at the current Thomas Road Baptist Church, a new sanctuary is due to be built at a different location.

The plans call for a 6,500 seat sanctuary to be built just across Route 460 from the LU campus (the current sanctuary holds approximately 3,400). It will be in very close proximity to LU's campus.

The main entrance of the new church will be where the police department trailers currently are. And the sanctuary itself will be adjacent to the Liberty Godparent Home.

The continual growth of the congregation and the activities at Thomas Road have necessitated the move. "We are running out of (Sunday School) education, classroom and worship space," said Executive Pastor Jonathan Falwell.

"Secondly, we are running out of parking space. We only have 1,002 parking spaces here at the facility. And some of those spots are down in the lower parking lot, and it takes a hiker to walk up to the church."

Another advantage of the new location will be the clearer television signals that will be sent out because of the less restrictive surroundings. The new construction will also permit the opportunity for increased technological sophistication.

"It'll be state-of-the-art. No question about it. And we won't be hampered by the situational and geological problems that we have in our current location," Falwell said.

Thomas Road leaders hope to have construction underway by this summer. Liberty students will benefit from the new facilities in a variety of ways.

Convocation services, for example, will be held in the new church, rather than in the Vines Center. And the various outreaches of Thomas Road will be much closer to campus.

"I feel very positive about the change of meeting places from a gym setting to a church edifice," said Chrystal Thompson, a junior who is majoring in communications. "I believe

that this type of restructuring will help to create a more concentrated worship and fellowship period."

The construction plans actually call for several buildings to go up initially. "One will be the sanctuary. One will be a children's ministries building. One will be a student ministries building, and then an office and a music complex," Falwell said.

The parking spaces will be at least tripled, much to the relief of Thomas Road attendees.

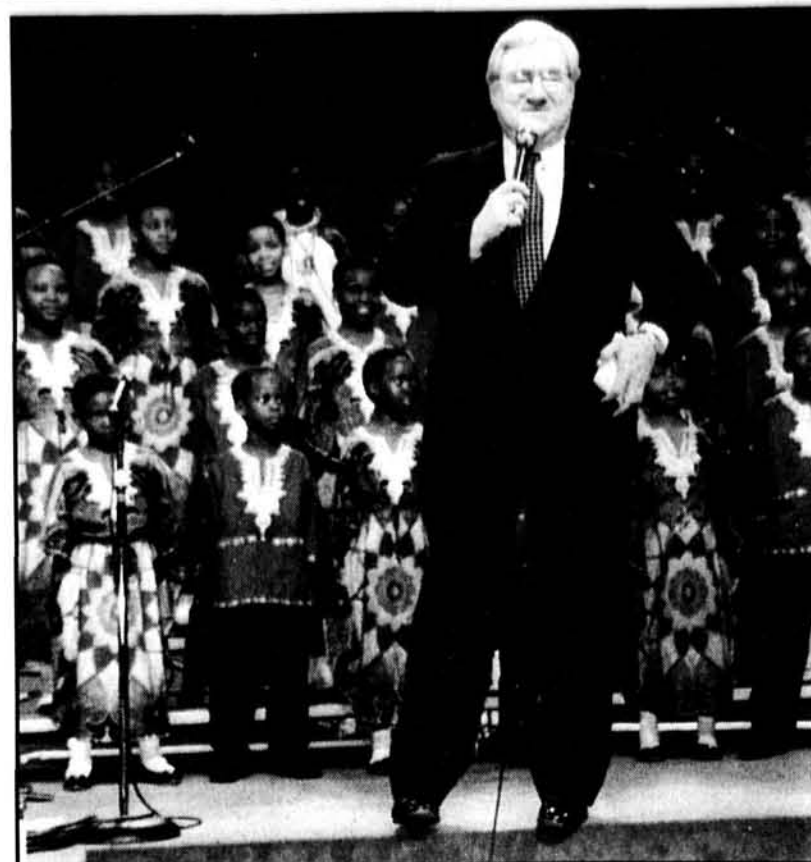
"The parking lot is currently a problem," said longtime Thomas Road member Cathy Baker.

If you don't get there early, it can be difficult to find places to park. There are also a lot of people with disabilities. And there's a very limited number of parking spaces for them at this time."

The move has been planned for years, but only recently had the dream of consolidating church and school become a real possibility.

"We are running out of (Sunday School) education, classroom and worship space,"

— Jonathan Falwell
TRBC executive pastor



FILE PHOTO

END OF AN ERA - Dr. Jerry Falwell's church has been located on Thomas Road since its founding.

Public Opinion Survey

Business & Registrars Offices

1. Have you experienced difficulty dealing with the Business Office?
YES 87.8% NO 12.2%
2. Do the personnel in the Business Office work in an efficient manner to process your requests?
YES 24.5% NO 75.4%
3. Are the staffs of both, the Business and Registrars Office adequately trained to handle the present volume of students?
YES 15.3% NO 84.6%

Results calculated from a survey by COMS 488 students of 880 random Liberty University students.

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Jeffrey Richard Tuthill ...

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in you will complete it until
the day of Jesus Christ.
We love you very much.
You're our pride and joy.



— Dad and Queen Mum

LU begins ramp construction to ease campus access traffic

BY TIM FARRANT
Champion Reporter

Liberty University is beginning construction of an off-ramp to link Route 460 East directly to the University. This off-ramp will be constructed on 460 east-bound behind the senior dorms.

The ramp has been a demand from the city of Lynchburg since 1989. Liberty was instructed to build the ramp in conjunction with the building of the Vines Center and Williams Stadium.

Liberty first agreed to the construction in 1989 when it presented the city with the plans for the additional facili-

ties. According to Lowell Terry, Lynchburg city traffic engineer, "they have gotten extensions over the years".

This time around the city has not been so lenient. Officials have made Liberty University produce a performance bond.

The bond consists of an agreement between Liberty and the city that the off-ramp will be completed by August of next year at the latest. If this agreement is not kept, Liberty will have to pay the city the \$650,000 stated in the bond.

This ramp is necessary for the completion of "Phase One" in the University building program, which anticipates even-

tually being able to hold 10,000 on-campus students.

"Phase One" includes: the building of the new Visitors Center, the building of two new six-story dorms and a clubhouse. The two six-story dorms will house another 798 students.

"Phase Two" in the building project is an additional story added on the DeMoss Center and two more three-story dorms, which will house another 432 students.

Included in "Phase Two" are also additional parking spaces. With the advance of "Phase Two" of the project, Liberty is required to also build another off-ramp onto Route 460 going westbound.

Graduating CHAMPION STAFF

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GOP congressman draws Democratic challenge

By RICK BOYER
News Editor

The congressional race in the Sixth District, which includes Lynchburg, is beginning to heat up.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte, a three-term Republican, has faced only nominal opposition since he dispatched Democrat Steve Musselwhite to win his first term in 1992.

This year, however, Sixth District Democrats plan to make a serious run at Goodlatte, who easily defeated labor activist Jeff Grey in 1996 and ran unopposed in 1994.

Roanoke Mayor David Bowers announced his candidacy on April 17, and appears all but certain to be the Democratic nominee.

At his announcement press conference, Bowers blasted Goodlatte, saying he has forgotten his moderate Virginia roots and become a pawn of House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Bowers said Goodlatte has become part of the "far right," and promised not to be a Gingrich ally if elected.

Although he touted the need for economic development in the district, he offered few specifics. Bowers, who works as a lawyer, said he would consider his constituents to be his clients. He said his role would be to listen to his constituents and represent them.

Both Goodlatte and Bowers hall from Roanoke, which as the largest city in the district, usually has a major role in choosing

the district's representative. Bowers faces an uphill race in the fall. Goodlatte has been able to concentrate on fundraising through several years of noncompetitive races, and holds a name recognition advantage as well.

In addition, Goodlatte has been endorsed by the mayors of the other nine cities in the district, including Lynchburg's Jim Whitaker.

"It is a pleasure to join the eight other city mayors in endorsing Bob Goodlatte," Whitaker said. "I know Bob Goodlatte well. I've seen first-hand his integrity, character, honesty, his desire to truly help people and his strong work ethic."

"These are the qualities we need in our Congressman, and these are the qualities that Bob possesses."

In addition, former Roanoke Mayor Noel Taylor, a Democrat whom Bowers defeated to win his position, has also endorsed Goodlatte.

Goodlatte was pleased with the support from the mayors. "I'm honored to be endorsed by these mayors who represent hundreds of thousands of folks from all walks of life across the Sixth District."

Lynchburg's Republican Party plans unanimous support for Goodlatte at the nominating convention, to be held May 9

in Salem. The Sixth District contest is expected to draw widespread attention, since Goodlatte is often talked about as a future candidate for statewide office.

In past years of comfortable victories, Goodlatte has been able to devote many of his resources to helping to elect Republicans to other offices across the district, and the stiffer competition this time has not changed that.

While in the city of Lynchburg to receive the city party's endorsement, Goodlatte lent support to the Republican candidates for city council, Jeff Helgeson, Bruton Langley and Schaefer Oglesby.

Democrats hope to force Goodlatte to spend more time focusing on his own re-election and less on helping other GOP hopefuls.

Goodlatte said he doesn't plan to change his style, in spite of Bowers' challenge. "I plan to run a strong campaign for re-election," he said. "In the meantime, I will keep doing the job folks elected me to do."

"I've seen first hand his integrity, character, honesty, his desire to truly help people and his strong work ethic."

- Jim Whitaker
Lynchburg Mayor

LU alumnus seeks council spot

Helgeson centers on education, taxes and the economy

By RICK BOYER
News Editor

The Lynchburg city council elections are a week away, and LU alumnus Jeff Helgeson is working hard for a spot on the council.

Helgeson is one of three Republicans seeking three at-large seats. Helgeson said he decided to run because of a love for Lynchburg. "I've been here all my adult life," he said. But, "I've seen a lot of areas where we can improve."

These areas form the basis for his platform, in which he focuses on three major issues. Taxes are the central theme of his campaign. He said his first priority is "lowering the real estate tax. Every time you turn you see another tax."

His second major issue is education reform. "Standards have declined. You have a lack of discipline," he said. He also is demanding higher academic standards.

Finally, Helgeson is pushing an agenda of economic development. "We need to attract investment and business to



Photo courtesy of Jeff Helgeson

JEFF HELGESON - Council candidate.

Lynchburg. Bringing jobs to Lynchburg; that's important for this community." He said excessive taxation has forced businesses out of town. Therefore he has proposed tax cuts to bolster economic development.

Helgeson came to Liberty to compete on the wrestling team in 1985, graduating with honors in 1988. He earned his MBA here in 1990 and founded his own business, Executive Financial Services. His job involves financial consulting and retirement planning.

His campaign, in contrast with most other council campaigns, has been very low-budget and has relied heavily on grassroots efforts. Helgeson said his campaign style will also mark his governing, and he criticized his opponents for being big spenders. "The way they run a campaign is the way they'll run a government," he said. "Throw money at it."

He has been endorsed by a wide spectrum of GOP officials. Gov. Jim Gilmore recently made a swing through town for Helgeson and the other two Republicans. In addition, he has drawn support from Lieutenant Governor John Hager, Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Attorney General Mark Earley.

Helgeson is upbeat about his chances on May 5. He said his race is all about listening to the voters rather than running an expensive campaign.

However, regardless of the outcome, he takes it all in stride. "Win lose or draw, it's helped me," he said.

Good Luck on Finals!!!

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See what our new Editor in Chief has to say ...

Page B7

Special Prayer Meeting

There will be a **Special Prayer Meeting** for **Dr. Linda Groome** (Govt. Dept.) on **Tuesday, April 28, 1998** in **DH 144** at **7:30 P.M.**

Professor Gene R. Sullivan will lead the **devotions**. All faculty, spouses, staff, spouses and students are **invited to attend.**

There will also be a **25 hour Prayer Vigil** for her on the **28th** as she has another chemotherapy treatment that day. We invite **everyone** to take part.

Thanks

The faculty and staff of *The Liberty Champion* would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to all of our Advertisers, Subscribers, Supporters and Readers.

Free Press and Free Expression coupled with Personal and Journalistic Responsibility are cornerstones of our society ... part of what makes our country great.

You all help to make *The Liberty Champion* and our country work.

We Thank You.



TARYN BLAKE

Hippies had a great idea

H!! My name is Taryn. I'll be editing your Life! for the next year or so.

In light of my current position, this is my opportunity to say everything that I would like to set straight, or simply see in print. Anyone who knows me personally realizes, for me, this is an endless task.

Before we students start a summer job, return to our home town and/or enter the mission field, I thought I'd begin with sermon number one to "spice up your Life!"

It's rather reflective actually.

Remember the good old 1960s? Social change met unbridled hedonism.

Amidst the chaos and confusion, one group of greasy haired young people stood out yelling, "Make love, not war!" Despite the double connotation, the phrase inspires an interesting concept.

Childlike interpretation would lead one to conclude that these flower children were asking for an end to conflict and the beginning of a new era of togetherness and harmony.

Having spoken to several E.C. Glass students after the Operation Rescue/Glass showdown recently, I began to question how we Christians are representing Jesus Christ. Has our conduct inspired togetherness or divisiveness? Do we promote harmony or discord by our actions?

We may have a conservative image and wear the correct attire but who does that impress besides other Christians? Hippies didn't wear clothes but they expressed a message of love and acceptance.

Think of Bob Marley's song, "One Love." Not too many people know what that song is about but most everyone likes it. Love works where other methods fail. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:3 that works without love profit nothing.

We must not forget 1 John 4:8, "God is love?" Think about it, everything about God is love, His longsuffering nature and his willingness to refine us by gently showing us the truth. Truth speaks for itself. Jesus is truth, by his own admission. (He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6). I seriously doubt if He requires our assistance to make His point.

My point is this, if we present truth in a loving manner, we have shown Jesus Christ in a God-centered fashion. We who claim to be His children should actively seek to exemplify the characteristics of our Father.

I recommend we all exchange the ideology of opposing "the world" in its every shape and form in favor of saturating our world with a message of truth and God's love for mankind.

Hey, it may sound sappy but "what the world needs now is love, sweet love."

Imagine how surprised Planned Parenthood would be to see a group of Liberty University students standing outside with signs proclaiming messages of love and encouragement to mothers of unborn children. No shouting. No fussing. Just a few godly people on their knees in prayer, lovingly proclaiming truth. I myself might have to check my pulse.

Let love rule. All else is "clanging cymbals" (1 Cor. 13:1).

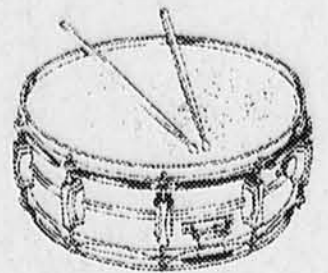
Sensationalism may make headlines but it is self-glorifying and divisive.

Think about it and make love, not war.

Life!



And the band marches on ...



This year has proven to be a time of many "firsts." It was the first time for male students to have facial hair, the first time for all students to have televisions in their dorm rooms, the first time to complete check-in in less than five hours.

The upcoming summer will also bring another first for the Liberty music program. In association with Drum Corps International (DCI), the university will host the first annual Seven Hills Summer Music Games in Williams Stadium on Friday, June 26.

Lynchburg's premiere event will be one of 120 drum and bugle corps stops on their nationwide tour leading to the DCI World Championships in Orlando, Fla. at the end of the season in August. This first presentation of the Seven Hills Summer Music Games will feature eight of the top 25 drum corps in the world, including the Volunteers (Knoxville, Tenn.), Spirit of Atlanta (Atlanta, Ga.), and the Crossmen (Newark, Del.). The Cadets of Bergen County (Bergen County, N.J.), the Bluecoats (Canton, Ohio), Tarheel Sun (Cary, N.C.), Carolina Crown (Fort Mill, S.C.), and the Magic of Orlando (Orlando, Fla.) will also make appearances.

Each summer, DCI holds contests throughout

North America in high schools, colleges, and professional football stadiums. The exhibitions draw more than 150,000 people.

The intense two-hour competitions feature corps music ranging from classical to jazz to Broadway favorites, accented with precision marching and intricate colorguard routines.

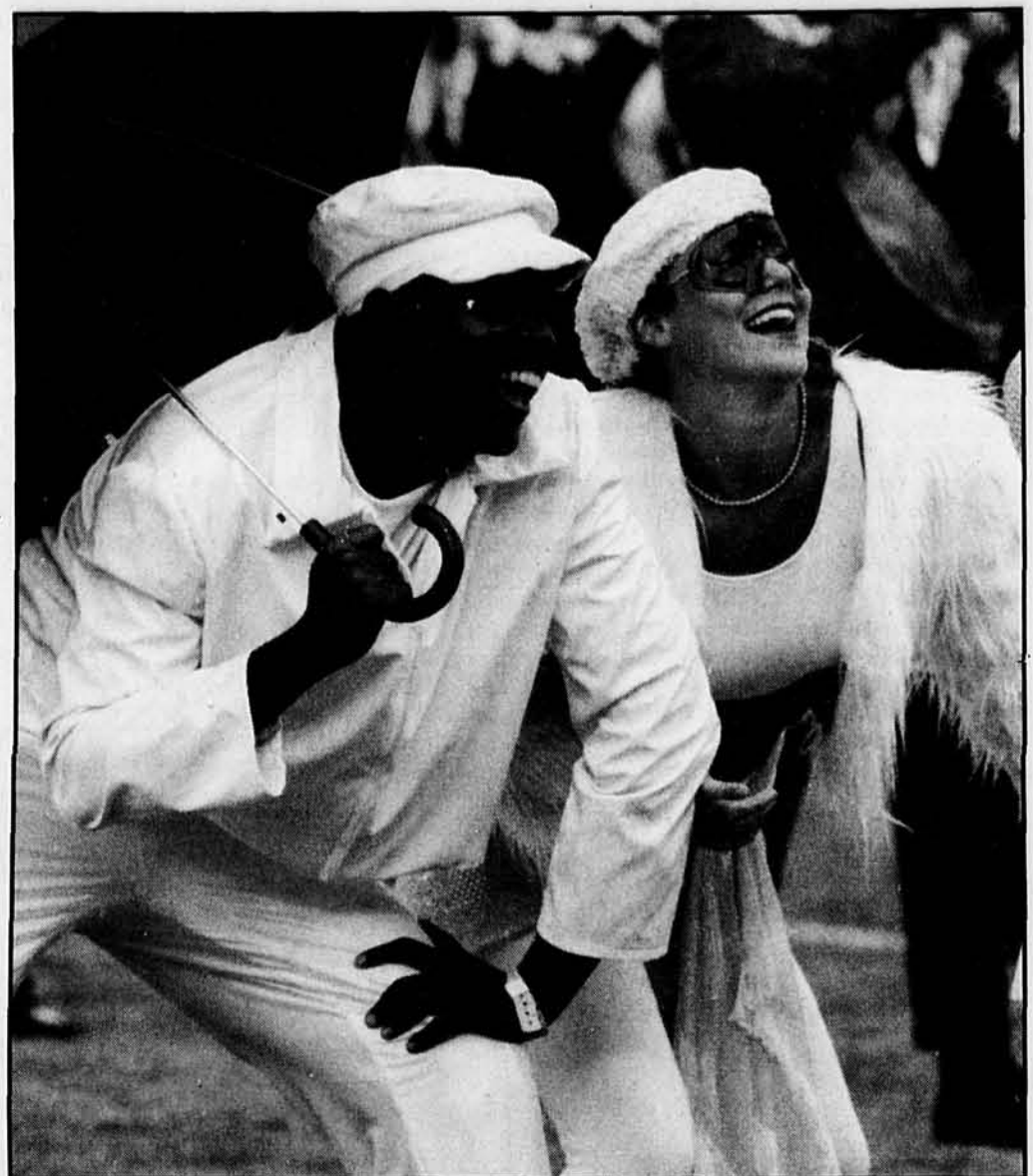
Dr. Raymond Locy, chairman of Liberty's Fine Arts department, scheduled the Seven Hills Summer Music Games as a nonprofit event to benefit the Liberty University Spirit of the Mountain Marching Band. He also felt the event would promote music education in Central Virginia.

This will not be a Liberty-only event, however. The performances of the drum corps are expected to generate great community response, as Lynchburg is home to several championship marching bands, including those of E.C. Glass and Heritage High Schools and the Lynchburg Christian Academy.

"What professional football is to a high school or college football player, drum corps is to musicians," Locy commented. "Each corps has a special style of performance and musical selections, and they have die-hard fans, much the same as the Green Bay Packers or Dallas Cowboys."

A number of LU students and faculty have participated in drum corps. Spirit of the Mountain percussion instructor Chris Daniel played snare for both the 1996 Cadets of Bergen County and the 1997 Crossmen. Senior music major Kim Brunett, and sophomore music major Matt Shaughnessy also participated as instrumentalists in the Crossmen, which placed sixth in the 1997 DCI World Championships. Diane Sullivan, external degree librarian, was a member of the Cadets of Bergen County, 1985 DCI World Champions.

"It was really cool to see all the work we put in over the summer pay off," Shaughnessy said. "It's awesome to come on to the field and see the whole crowd on their feet before you've even played. It's an indescribable feeling."



JOLESCH PHOTOGRAPHY

WE'VE GOT THE MAGIC — Two Magic of Orlando colorguard members strike a pose in the 1997 Drum Corps International championship competition.

After a rigorous audition in November, members practice throughout the winter months, concluding with full-time rehearsal in May. The groups begin their summer-long competition tour in mid- to late June.

Sullivan, who played the xylophone, remembers winning the final championship.

"I'll never forget looking up at a standing ovation from 20,000 people in the stadium at the University of Wisconsin at Madison," she said. "Winning the championship was the ultimate reward for a summer of grueling rehearsal and travel. My musical skills were stretched beyond anything I imagined."

Showtime for the Seven Hills Summer Music Games is 7 p.m. Reserved seating is \$12 and general admission is \$10. For information, call 582-2318.

- submitted by Diane Sullivan

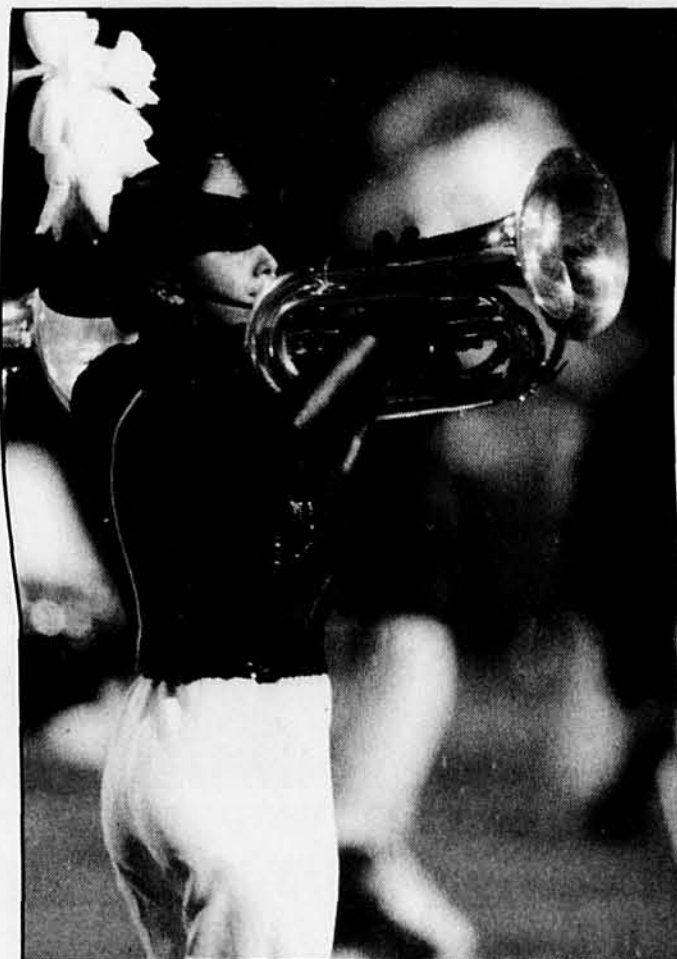


PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM BRUNETT

TOOTIN' HER OWN HORN — LU senior Kim Brunett plays the baritone for the 1997 Crossmen drum corps.

Graduation Facts and Figures

- 1400 students will graduate this May, including those enrolled in the External Program.
- 800 students will participate in the May 9 graduation ceremony.
- Students will donate their used caps and gowns to a ministry in the Philippines.
- The Wingate Inn will be open for the first time to accommodate visitors.
- LU President Dr. Borek will speak during the ceremony.

We're outta here

By JENNIFER PILLATH
Editor in Chief

Advice. Sometimes it is such a difficult thing to take, and sometimes we beg for it. Well it is now April, that wonderful prime-time decision making month, and advice seems to be the most sought after senior commodity of the day.

But even in the midst of job hunts and resumes and internships and weddings, there are still some things that we may have forgotten about. Some things that can only be told from the experienced mouth of an individual who has already been there.

Such is the case with the 1998 commencement speaker. Although not originally scheduled to speak at graduation exercises, Liberty University President Dr. John M. Borek will be presenting his thoughts and advice to a new breed of career-orientated individuals. And the class of 1998 is sure to glean off of the knowledge and life experience that Dr. Borek will present.

So, here's a little peek at the man who will be standing behind that podium on May 9 in front of a mass of black robes and colored tassels.

✦ **SCHOOL DAZE** - After one year of administrative duties here at Liberty, Dr. Borek has succeeded in communicating with the student body in great detail. His web site, entitled the President's Message, is only one of the channels used to inform, update, promote, address and clarify campus problems. Also, since his move to Liberty Mountain, Borek has brought his office closer to the student body by positioning it in the academic buildings.

"It's sort of a center of campus," reiterated Borek. "It's easy to go to the cafeteria from here. It makes it worth while to

see students when they are happy and when they have concerns."

Of course, success in his position comes from experience. Borek has spent years in the educational realm, including work with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. But, even for a man seemingly immune to the routine of college life, some things will never change.

"I think I would rather have my momma's cooking," he chuckled after reference to a recent cafeteria visit. "I'm like everybody else."

✦ **LUXURY LEISURE** - Although Liberty's president puts in an estimated 60 hours of work on-campus per week, Dr. Borek still manages to squeeze in some form of outside interest.

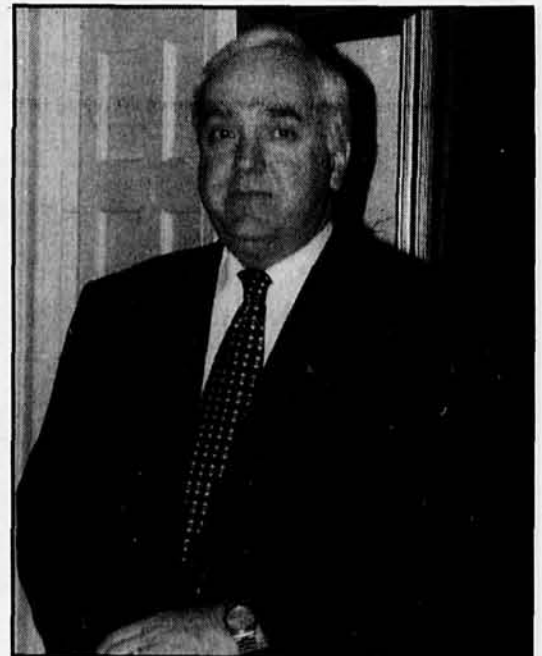
His office perhaps hints at these times of relative calm. A photograph of the cockpit of a 747 hangs in the room, evidence of his love for the outer hemisphere and the more daring side of life.

For over 40 years, Borek has dappled in flying mechanisms and flight patterns. Beginning early in life, Borek began the task of learning how to fly. With experience in the Civil Air Patrol, as well as ownership of a twin-engine and a single-engine plane, Borek has definitely earned his "wings".

Of course, traveling can take different courses for different people. So it is not unusual that Dr. Borek finds a lot of his free time in the company of a good book.

"You can travel by reading about places you otherwise wouldn't go to," he said.

Among his favorites? Charles Dickens and Shakespeare. Of course, modern classics such as Tom Clancy are also fair game. ✦ **SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS** - Perhaps the most important matter at a Christian university is the character of its leaders. And more specifically, the walk that they have with God. This is one of the factors that sets Liberty's president aside from



SHAWN ELDRIDGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — LU President Dr. John Borek, Jr., will give the commencement address on May 9

other colleges. His testimony rings true. And that is one of the factors that led him to Liberty University.

"I saw a group of men and women that were dedicated to Christian standards," commented Borek. "and a group of faculty that shared that desire."

It is that same character that can be noted in the president's speech and in his example. When asked his favorite passage of Scripture, he was hard-pressed, for they all seemed equally elegant to him.

"I think John 17," he finally stated. "This is where Jesus was talking to his father."

How ironic. As graduation nears, Liberty's seniors can rest assured that they will be receiving insight from a man equal to the challenge.

Circadian Rhythm balances responsibility & accountability & ministry



DEY BUBAR

By TARYN BLAKE
Life! Editor

Graduation is a time of difficult decisions. For many college bands, it is a fatal blow to stability. Circadian Rhythm is a band graduating from school, into ministry.

Circadian is best remembered for its relaxed acoustic sound and mellow vocals or as a Liberty band that seldom plays in Lynchburg.

When asked how they would like to be remembered, drummer Dan Cuomo solidly responded, "I hope to be remembered as what we preached on stage is how we lived our lives. That's something we really try to do." He also expressed awe of the opportunity to minister to audiences through music. "It's just an honor just to have some impact on a kid's life."

Guitarist Andy Zipf continued, "To a point, (music) is just a vehicle in order to proclaim the Gospel, to encourage, and challenge Christians. You can't disciple somebody in one night but you can encourage (them)."

During the past year and a half, the five current members of Circadian Rhythm, (Will Pavone, Dan Cuomo, Andy Zipf, Paul Barber, and Aaron Paganini), have been creating avenues for ministry through music in about 13 states, everywhere from "coffee shops to youth groups." There is a noticeable brother-like camaraderie between band members that is characteristic of the Christian life they each live.

Lead vocalist Pavone chalks it up to accountability. "When we come into the five of us, there's just an accountability that takes place there. We wouldn't let each other fall out of that. That's really important."

When the decision between music and ministry must be made, Circadian weighs the scale for ministry. "Number one," Pavone said, "we're ministers and then number two, we're musicians." Zipf added, "It's the best of both worlds." Cuomo continued,

"Our hearts are for ministry. We don't just want to be a band to play for entertainment and leave... that's kind of a waste."

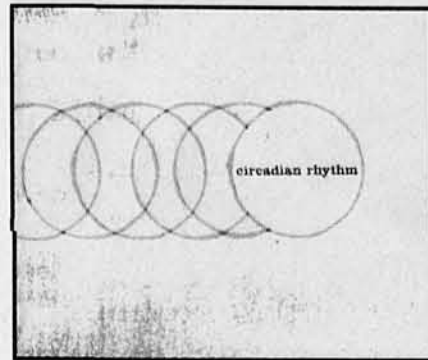
As with any maturing musical group, the quest for fame and fortune can become a nagging issue, but not even the big time could change these boys. "I pray," Pavone says, "and all of us do, that (national coverage) wouldn't change us." He answers the fear of reaching national status to the detriment of the band with assurance that Circadian Rhythm views the opportunity of national coverage as an avenue to reach a larger audience for Christ.

"LU faithfuls" often ask the band about their post-graduation plans. Little is completely definite in the long run but the members of the Rhythm leave their collective fate at the Master's feet.

"As long as we're where God wants us," said Cuomo, "He's going to take care of us. We're ready to focus on the music without school. We're excited about what's God's going to do. We don't know what that is, but I guess that's what makes it exciting."

What they do know is that their summer schedule is packed. The group has plans for a four month independent tour beginning May 10. The band will perform in several states while heading toward California where they will perform for three weeks. The mainstay of the tour will be on the east coast with shows in Florida and then ending in New England in late August.

Circadian Rhythm will release its debut album this Friday. The CD will include two live and five studio songs. This Friday will also be the last time Lynchburg can expect to see the Rhythm for a while as they play at Randolph-Macon College.



THERE'S LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL — Circadian Rhythm is one of Liberty's most popular acoustic bands (above). The band's debut CD will be released this coming Friday (left).

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH **Circadian Rhythm?**

Performing Friday, May 1 at Randolph-Macon College 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2.

CD releases Friday also

For summer tour info: www.circadianrhythm.com (after May 9)

Students enjoy the first houseless Coffee House

By RANDY KING
Life! Reporter

Couches, blankets and lawn chairs covered Liberty's Intramural Fields as Student Life hosted its first outdoor Coffee House, the 1998 Best of the Best show. The crowd, which numbered in the thousands, spread over most of the field between Rt. 460 and Dorm 28.

The lure of free admission, the usual free stuff and free food and drink, provided by Marriott, drew the crowds out to the field.

Although the dew arrived before the audience did, the wet ground didn't dampen crowd spirit. In fact, the unconfined atmosphere seemed to suit the students, who kept up a steady buzz of spirited interaction even through the duller acts.

Student Life managed its sound system well, despite having to compete with both the roar of cars on 460 and a passing train.

A tuxedo-clad M.C. Matt Gallagher opened the show with a few barbed comments on the proposed location of the future dorms. "They chose a nice central location, over in Guam," Gallagher quipped.

The first act, Brotherhood, hailed from the Backyard Coffee House. The group choreographed "Cotton Eye Joe."

Gallagher came back on stage with a few comments on one of his favorite subjects, the differences between Northerners and Southerners.

"I didn't realize until I came here that turn signals were never meant to be used," Gallagher said.

"It took me a while to figure out Southern. But I think I got it. 'Ya'll' is singular, 'ya'lls' is plural and 'all ya'lls' is plural possessive."

— Matt Gallagher

"It took me a while to figure out Southern. But I think I got it. 'Ya'll' is singular, 'ya'lls' is plural and 'all ya'lls' is plural possessive," Gallagher related to his fellow Yankees.

Of course, no bash-on-the-South session would be complete without a cut on West Virginia.

"Did you hear that the West Virginia Capital burnt down?" Gallagher asked. "Yeah, all they found was the trailer hitch."

Rice Krispie and the Treats, stars from the Late Show Coffee House, took the stage next, with a repeat performance of their beautiful rendition of Extreme's "More than Words."

Gallagher returned to host his own version of Star Search, featuring 'House veteran Suzie, a.k.a. Gina Miller.

Suzie tried to impress the judges with a singing routine first. But after Gallagher interrupted that act to spare the audience, Suzie fell back on one of her trademark dancing routines.

The crowd perked up and gave an enthusiastic round of applause for Ingrid Rosario's powerful rendition of the Titanic theme. Dan Taulbee accompanied on the keyboard, as he did at the Valentine's Day Coffee House.

"That is a talent from God," student John Paulsen said of Rosario. "If I was a big record company, I'd sign her up on the spot."

Seemingly strangely out of season, Rosario



MATT HJEMBO

DID SOMEONE SAY PARTY? — Students lounge around at the first outdoor Coffee House ever. Student Life held "Best of the Best Coffee House" on the Intramural Field this Friday as a late night activity.

returned later, dressed in red and sporting reindeer antlers, with several friends to sing "All I want for Christmas is you."

Another crowd favorite, Grandma and Grandpa, who debuted at the Valentine's Day Coffee House, resurfaced to show that they were still in love with that mountain music.

"House regulars, Don P. and C.Z. Smooth brought the crowd to its feet with their lyrics and dance music. A mosh pit formed in front of the stage as the crowd enjoyed the opportunity to get off the cold ground.

The show ended with Jeremy Pickwell and a full band belting out their take of Paul Simon's "You can call me Al."

As the tired students trailed back to their dorms, the comments were mostly positive.

"The outdoors thing was a good idea," senior Toby Hong said.

Many students compared it to a real concert, and there were even analogies made to Woodstock, which, considering the mess left behind, didn't seem too inaccurate.

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Seemingly strangely out of season, Rosario

"No Trespassing" on sensitive issues

By BECKY WALKER
Life! Reporter

In a day and age when it is common to see controversial topics show up in classroom debates, television programs and theater shows, it's no surprise when it begins to appear on stage. And one such issue is about to be depicted through the eyes of teenage boys on the Lloyd Auditorium stage.

Senior Kent Dobson has written a play called "No Trespassing" for his English 495 class, "Directed Research."

This is monumental for Liberty University because it is the first time that a student has written, directed and produced his own play for the class.

"It is a class where you go under the aid of the teacher and you specifically study one thing," said Dobson. "I chose playwriting."

The play is made up of eight themes all rolled into one act. "There are vari-

ous events that take place over three days over the Fourth of July in this neighborhood," explained Dobson.

The theme of the play is displayed through the lives of four teenage boys between the ages of 13-15 and a stage-hand who has no oral lines. Two brothers named Jonathan and Tim work on a farm owned by Pete. Eventually the farm is sold to a Jack, who the boys taunt and make fun of.

Throughout the play the boys must battle against stereotypes and other culturally sensitive issues that Christian teenagers run into. "It's a play that indirectly promotes loving as an option to treating people with hate," Dobson said. "I believe that it is something that the Liberty audience needs to hear."

The scenery is simple with only four mailboxes representing the boy's houses. Fortunately, the English Department is sponsoring the play and has allotted money for it.

Dobson is not alone in his endeavors. Professor Linda Nell Cooper has been Dobson's shadow ever since he

first thought of the idea for the play. Offering her aid whenever Dobson needed it, Cooper, "acted as one who I could refer to about anything," he said. Cooper, who is an English professor at Liberty, has also written several plays.

Dobson hopes that after producing his play, it will help ignite the love of playwriting in others. "I hope that I can spark some interest as far as allowing students to do this sort of thing," Dobson stressed.

After the play, Dobson hopes that it will also encourage the English Department to revive the Drama major which was eliminated five years ago.

The cast includes Chad Sundin who plays Jonathan, Larry Cox who plays Tim, Seth Williams who plays Brett, Daniel Struna who plays Jack and David Thienes who plays the stage-hand.

"No Trespassing" will be performed in the Lloyd Auditorium on May 2 at 7:30 p.m. Come out and see what all the fuss is about.



SHAWN ELDRIDGE

CLOSED SET — Kent Dobson rehearses "No Trespassing" with a cast member.



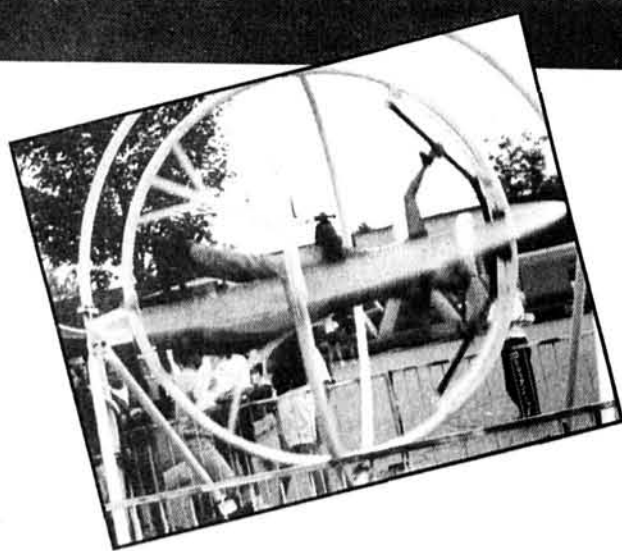
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Csider Explodes — Page B3

The Champion Sports

Year in Pictures — Page B5

Baseball clinches first ever No.1 seed

Harrell shuts out WU for historic victory

By MATT KEENAN
Sports Editor

The Liberty University Flames baseball team split a double-header with the Winthrop Eagles on Saturday, April 25 to capture its first ever regular season championship in school history. LU (26-23, 12-3 Big South Conference) has never entered the BSC Tournament with a No. 1 seed, something they're about to embark on May 8-10 in Charlotte, N.C.

Junior Brian Harrell (7-4, 3.95 ERA) tossed a complete game shutout in propelling the Flames to a 2-0 victory over Winthrop (32-18, 10-8), the preseason favorites to win the BSC. Harrell scattered four hits in the contest while striking out six and walking three in seven innings of work.

"I knew that I was going to have to pitch a very good game because their pitching staff is one of the best," Harrell said.

Liberty scored the only run Harrell would need in the first inning when Steve Wright (.379 Avg.) tallied his club leading 64th RBI on the year by singling into centerfield to plate Benji Miller. Miller had led off the inning with a walk and then advanced on a two base error by the Winthrop pitcher on a failed pick off attempt.

LU's David Dalton added an insurance run in the third inning when he singled to bring Jay Sullenger across the plate.

Sullenger reached first base on a single and then Head Coach Dave Pastors played it "by the book." Miller sacrificed his out by bunting to move Sullenger second and then Jason Benham did his job by pulling the ball to advance Sullenger to third. Dalton capped off

the inning with his run producing single.

Winthrop never managed to pose a threat to Harrell as no WU player advanced past second base. Harrell became the first LU pitcher to record a shut out this season.

The Eagles of WU managed to win the three game series by winning the first two contests, 6-5 in 10 innings on Friday and 3-1 in game one on Saturday. Winthrop was playing with their backs against a wall as they try to make the Big South Tournament, as only the top four teams get to participate in the postseason. With the two wins against LU they have put themselves in a good position to make the tournament.

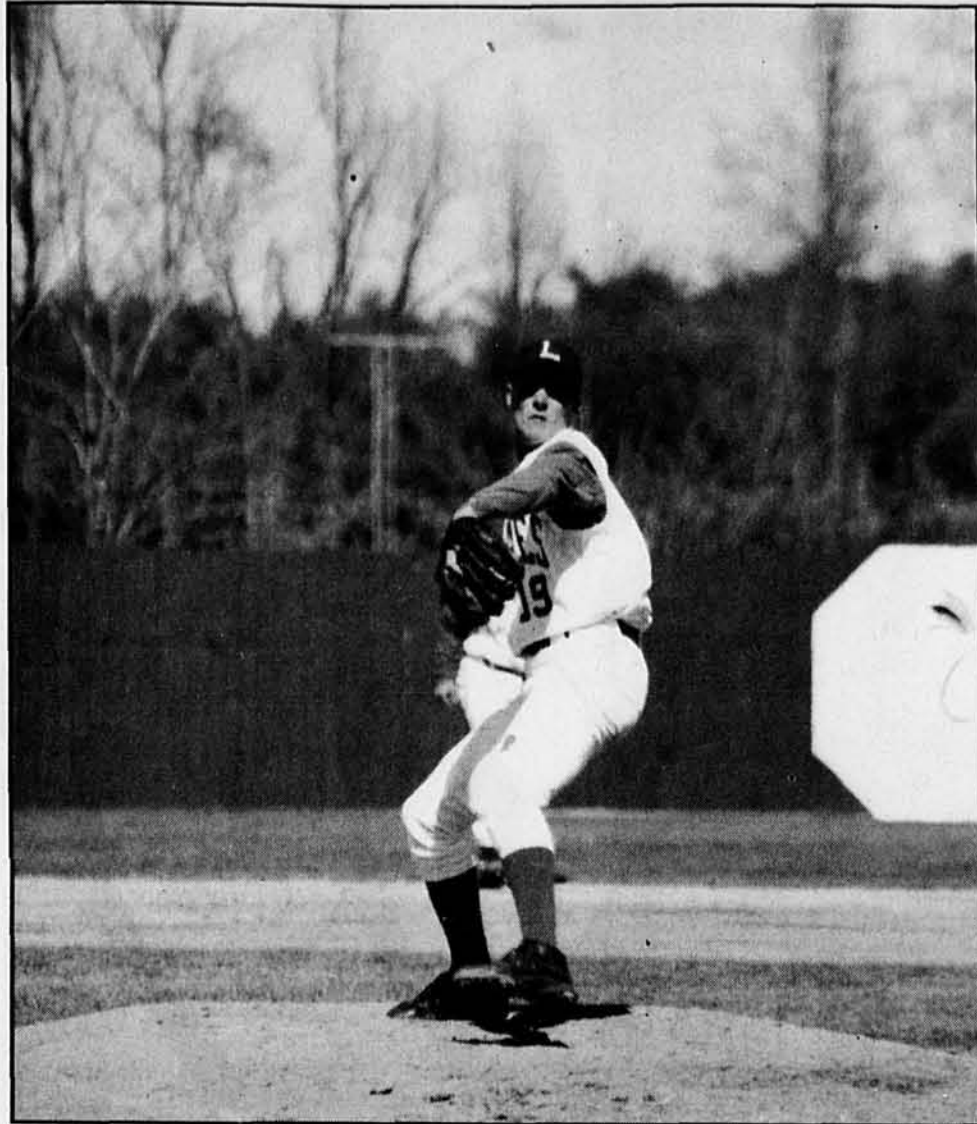
In game one on Saturday, Liberty wasn't able to solve the pitching of David Steffler (11-2, 3.07), who is second in the nation in wins this season. Steffler struck out nine LU batters while allowing four hits. David Dalton ruined Steffler's bid for a shut out by doubling in the sixth to score Wright.

Tim Harrell (6-3, 5.15) pitched his heart out allowing only two earned runs in going the distance for LU. Harrell fanned six batters, but issued five free passes as well.

On Thursday, Liberty dropped a non-conference decision to the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest (31-17), 10-9.

It was a disappointing loss for the Flames who scored eight unanswered runs off a dominant ACC pitching staff. LU held a 9-7 lead on Dalton's homer.

Wake Forest freshman Jason Aquilante scored on an infield hit in the bottom of the ninth to give the Deacons the win. Paige Hurley (0-3) took the loss for Liberty. Jason Benham finished the contest going four-for-five.



THOMAS LOVING

ARMED AND DANGEROUS — Benji Miller and the Liberty baseball team are armed and ready to enter the Big South tourney as the team to beat.



MATT KEENAN

Don't call me inbred; I'm just fanatical

Just as the Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays have expanded the youth in Major League Baseball, so have I expanded the youth of editors. I'm starting off as only an upcoming sophomore.

I came to LU from Berkeley Springs, W.Va., which is located in the Eastern Panhandle, an hour and a half outside of Washington D.C. and Baltimore.

Now before any of you go and make judgmental inbreeding comments about West Virginia I'd like to point out a few facts. Yes, I do wear shoes and my family tree doesn't continue on the same branch, contrary to the belief of a pre-madonna David Letterman wannabe.

Besides, I believe the Mountain State is represented fairly well within the arena here at Liberty. You guys can crack jokes about W.Va., but when it comes to the Wilkerson twins it's a whole different story isn't it?

Along with the Wilkersons, we have a very talented firstbasemen on the Lady Flames softball team by the name of Meredith Hollyfield.

And now the men's basketball team is being taken over from someone who has coached at West Virginia University for the past five years. You can poke fun at us, but we do take our sports very seriously.

I'm a person who is very passionate when it comes to sports. Maybe I'm a little too passionate. I think I'm the only player in my high school's history who collected close to double digits in technical fouls in my basketball career. Along with playing basketball I also ran cross country and played baseball.

I tend to go with the home teams when it comes to representing professional teams. It's gotta be the Redskins in football, or anyone who's playing Dallas, and the Baltimore Orioles are my faves in baseball. I have to route for the Celtics in b-ball all because of my boyhood idol, Larry Legend.

Say, did you see Cobi Jones' header... ah never mind, you'll never find anything in my columns about Major League Soccer. Or is it futbol? Anyway, it may be the world's sport, but it surely isn't America's.

NASCAR racing and the NWO aren't too high on my list of watchable non-sports either. In my opinion, you have to be from the South or another country to enjoy any or all of the above sports.

I'm going to try and keep the sports pages real. Next semester you'll see the addition of box scores and a weekly schedule of the coming week's events to keep you up on who's playing where on Liberty's campus. I also plan to add a weekly box with something from LU's sports history, thanks to a suggestion given by Pastor Dwayne Carson.

After all, it was '94 when the men's team was in the NCAA Tournament playing UNC in the first round, which was the first time that I had ever heard of Liberty.

Speaking of the illustrious NCAA Tournaments, I greatly anticipate the annual trip to the women's NCAA's and hopefully even the men's. I'm also looking forward to being the first Sports Editor to go to the IAA playoffs.

It should prove to be an interesting experience serving as your sports editor. Hopefully I can step on some toes and keep you all awake through the coming semesters. Don't take offense to anything that I write in my columns either, because I tend to write with a little sarcasm in the humor.

Golf fades away in final round; Coastal runs away by 13 strokes

Willis named to All-Conference team

By MATT DERRICK
Champion Reporter

Entering the final round of the Big South Tournament on April 21 Liberty was in third place, only 12 strokes off the lead. Although the Flames had an impressive start, they tailed off in the third round. Despite a few tough breaks, Liberty finished the tournament with a admirable fourth place finish. "Overall, I was very pleased with the performance of the guys this year," Head Coach Frank Landrey said.

Coastal Carolina established its dominance of the Big South by winning both the men's and women's titles. The men's team won by a record 13 strokes and the women won by a lopsided 17 shots.

Liberty made a splendid run for the conference championship crown. Their final score would have been good enough to win the tournament the past two years in a row. Unfortunately, this year all the top teams came together.

"The problem was, that each of the teams that beat us, they all had one or two guys who really finished strong and carried their teams with very low scores," Landrey said.

Liberty was led by a quality per-

formance from its talented roster. Dan Willis, playing in his last Big South Tournament, placed seventh overall, only two over par. Willis also was named to the All-Big South team, along with four Coastal Carolina players.

Justin Jennings finished 10th, with Young Joo right on his tail in 11th. Rounding out the rest of the team was Tom Giles who finished 15th and Jon Wolfe in 29th place.

As he looked back on this year, Landrey said it was a positive one.

"I've been very pleased with the play of my seniors, Justin Jennings and Dan Willis. They clearly distinguished themselves this year," Landrey said. "Mark Setsma has had a very successful career here. He made scholastic All-American this year."

While the team has one more tournament (the Penn State Invitational), Landrey is optimistic about the returning team.

"I was very pleased with my freshmen, Yong Joo and Tom Giles. It looks like we're headed into some good years."

Charleston Southern racked up a score of 873 to secure second place behind Coastal, while Winthrop squeezed in front of LU with an 882. UMBC and Radford rounded out the six team field.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. HORTON

THE SMILE OF A WINNER — Dr. Horton and his wife Nance at the HOF banquet.

Horton runs into Hall of Fame

By BECKY WALKER
Champion Reporter

"I'm too young," Dr. David Horton exclaimed when he found out that he was chosen to be in the 1998 Lynchburg Area Sports Hall of Fame.

On Tuesday night nine men and women were honored for their contributions to various athletics in the Lynchburg area. A room full of former athletes and coaches, dedicated Lynchburg sport supporters and Dr. Horton gathered together while former Virginia governor George Allen served as the emcee.

After an evening of speeches and recognitions given by friends and family members of those

inducted and by the inductees themselves, a plaque was presented to each new member of the Sports Hall of Fame. A second plaque will be placed in the Lynchburg airport for the public to view.

Horton, the Chairman of Sport Sciences and a physical education professor here at Liberty, was nominated by a woman named Rebekah Trittipoe. She is a fellow ultrarunner and the co-author of his book, "A Quest for Adventure" which came out on shelves last November.

Trittipoe sent the nomination letter over two years ago to the Sports Capital of Virginia, the

— Please see First, page B2

Softball poised for postseason

By BRIAN WOOLFORD
Asst. Sports Editor

In the final week of the season, the Lady Flames were able to knock off Virginia Tech twice and defeat Winthrop University to extend their season.

Liberty's designated hitter Kristi Hanna had a great showing against Virginia Tech in the first game of the doubleheader. Hanna went two for three at the plate and also earned a stolen base. The Lady Flames nudged out a 2-1 victory.

In game two, Liberty's bats came alive. The Lady Flames pounded out eleven hits to thump the Lady Hokies 5-2.

Liberty secured a postseason position by beating the Lady Eagles of Winthrop in the second game of a double header on Saturday. The victory brings Liberty's season record to 29-21 overall and 8-8 in the Big South.

The Lady Flames produced two solid efforts against Winthrop in the twin bill. In game one, Liberty notched 10 hits to stay close to the Lady Eagles.

Centerfielder Stacy Radulovich blasted her second homerun of the year in the bottom of the sixth inning to bring Liberty within one run. Despite the late inning rally, the Lady Flames fell short 7-6.

In the season finale, Liberty's defense took control. The Lady Flames held one the Big South's highest scoring teams to just one run. Leftfielder Gina Miller's RBI in the bottom of the second inning tied the game at 1-1.

Liberty gained the lead later in the inning when Miller stole home. Freshman pitcher Amy Csider mastered Winthrop's bats by holding the Lady Eagles to just four hits and permitted only two walks. The Lady Flames went on to prevail over the Winthrop 3-1.

With the win, LU Head Coach

Paul Wetmore obtained his fourth consecutive winning season in his tenure as head coach.

Liberty will enter next week's Big South Tournament with high expectations for such a young ball club. The Lady Flames were winners of six of their last eight games, and have played sound softball against its Big South opponents.

"Last year we ended the season on a decline, but this year I feel we are headed into the tournament on a high note," Wetmore said.

The East Carolina Lady Pirates are the regular season champions and are the favorites to win the Big South Tournament. Although ECU has displayed dominance throughout the year, the Lady Flames have competed well against the Lady Pirates.

In the two meetings this year, Liberty has battled ECU into extra innings and fell one run short. The Big South Tournament will be held May 1-3 in Rock Hill, S.C.



THOMAS LOVING

"YOU'RE OUTTA THERE!" — Cheryl Everly tags out a Winthrop runner during Saturday's action. LU split the DH with Winthrop to wrap up a Big South Tournament berth.

First LU athlete inducted

— continued from page B1

organization responsible for choosing the inductees. "David has inspired me and so many other people, so I felt like he was the perfect candidate," Trittipoe explained.

Pounding over 73,000 miles of pavement, rocks, streams and of course, astroturf, Horton has defi-

nately earned his membership. He is currently the world record holder for running and hiking the Appalachian Trail, the holder of the third fastest time in the world for running across the U.S. and the only person in the world that has done both the Appalachian Trail and the Trans-America Footrace.

Horton has run in over 100 ultramarathons which is 50 plus miles

and has come out in first place in 40 of the races. He is scheduled to race in another 100 plus ultra-marathon in Colorado soon.

Always an advocate for healthy living, Horton tries to encourage anyone who crosses his path. "It's up to you to stay active," Horton stressed. "I really hate to see people do nothing."

Too close to call



Thomas Loving

YOU MAKE THE CALL — Meredith Hollyfield stretches to try and get a Winthrop runner. The LU softball team made things just as interesting by waiting until the final game of the season to wrap up a bid in the Big South Tournament.

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Freshman brings the heat for the Flames

Csider overwhelms opponents in first year for the Lady Flames

By **BRIAN WOOLFORD**
Asst. Sports Editor

The 1998 softball season was highlighted by some outstanding performances and achievements by the Lady Flames. Liberty continued to receive solid contributions from Stacy Radulovich, who had a team-leading batting average of .350, and 11-game winner Katie Phillips.

1998 also proved to be the year that the Lady Flames produced some remarkable upsets. On March 24, Liberty ended an eight-game winless streak against the University of Virginia by defeating the Cavaliers 2-0 and 1-0 in a doubleheader.

The Virginia Tech Lady Hokies also fell victim to Liberty, when the Ladies scorched them twice on April 21.

Much of the success generated by the Flames this year can be attributed to a productive freshman class. Starting Catcher Cheryl Everly, first baseman Meredith Hollyfield and shortstop Lisa Jones combined for 73 hits and 25 RBIs this season. But, one of the top newcomers to the Flames was pitcher Amy Csider.

Sudden Impact

Csider, a California native, has made a smooth transition from high school to college athletics. In

high school, Csider was twice selected to the All-East Bay team and once selected to the Oakland Tribune's All-Player team. In the classroom, Amy was a four year-year honor roll student and also received the academic award of excellence.

The progression to the college game has forced Csider to adapt to the higher level of competition. Csider relies less on her fastball and more on her change-up and off speed pitches in the collegiate game.

"I can't overpower hitters at this level, yet," Csider says modestly.

This should be troubling to opposing teams considering that Csider posted a team-high 97 strikeouts in her first year. Csider also showed her endurance in her freshman year by throwing 14 complete games.

Coach Paul Wetmore hoped by adding Csider to his already



FILE PHOTO

"We tend to play better in the big games...I feel we can do very well in the tournament"

— Amy Csider

strong rotation that the team's pitching would improve substantially. Liberty normally uses only two pitchers, forcing the duo to pitch in 30 games a year. His strategy worked like a charm: Liberty's team earned run average dropped from 2.51 to 1.63 with the addition of Csider.

"Amy has been a key factor to our pitching success ... her stats prove her worth," said Wetmore.

Potent Pitching

Throughout the year Csider showed that she was a sound hurler. From mid-March to early April, Csider won six straight games. During her stretch she registered victories over Vermont, Radford University and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

When Csider was in control on the mound, she was almost impossible to hit. She pitched masterful shutouts against Morgan State, Vermont and North Carolina A&T. Opposing

batters barely managed a .200 batting average against the freshman.

Csider backed up her pitching with a steady season at the plate. She batted a respectable .268 with 38 hits and 19 RBIs.

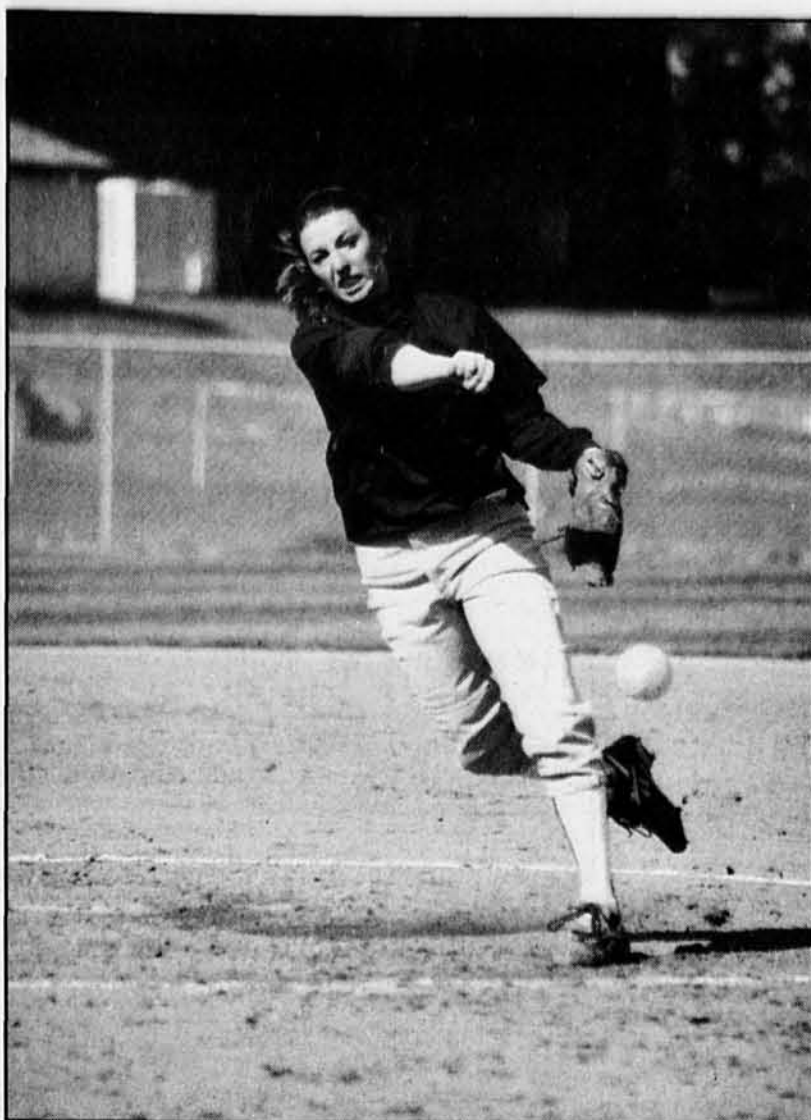
Superb Composure

Saturday, Csider displayed the self-control of an upperclassman. In a game that decided the fate of the Lady Flames season, Csider remained calm in pressure situations. Early in game two against Winthrop University, Csider found herself in bit of trouble.

Csider had allowed four hits in less than two innings work, but the Lady Flames were down 1-0. The relaxed Csider remained unflustered as Winthrop put two runners in scoring position. Csider struck out second baseman Selina Fine to end the inning, and then started to roll the rest of the game.

After the second inning, Csider allowed no more hits and struck four batters. The win pushed the Lady Flames into the Big South Tournament. With the team carrying the momentum from two vital wins over Virginia Tech and a good offensive showing Saturday, Liberty is ready for the postseason.

"We tend to play better in the big games, I feel we can do very well in the tournament," says Csider.



LEZAH CROSBY

GOLDEN STATE WARRIOR- Amy Csider launches another rocket to an opposing batter. Csider struck out a team-high 97 batters in her freshman year.

Congratulations Mary Jo
We Love You!
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& have made us proud.
You have attained your goals
& the Lord has blessed you.
Love you always
Mom & Dad
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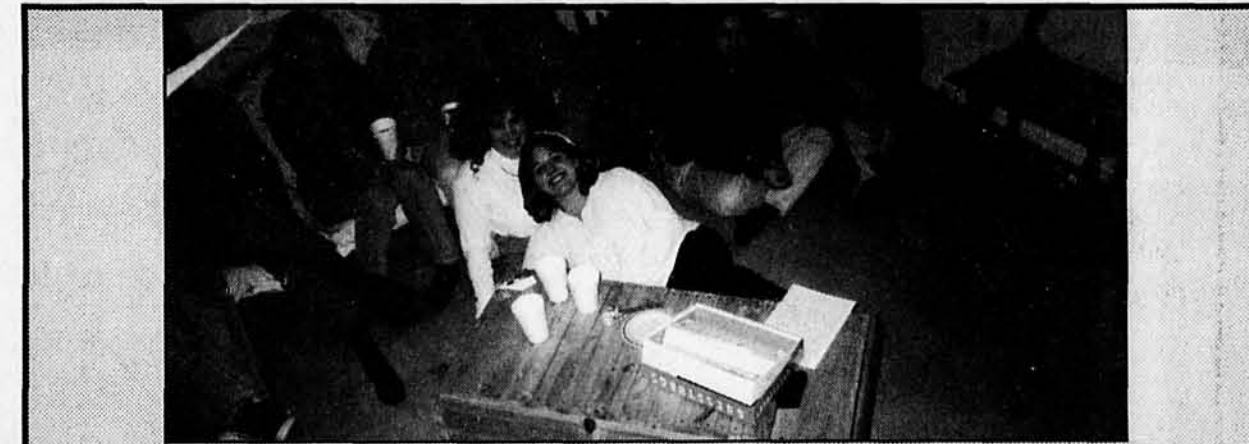


Congratulations Mark Daniel,

You Have come this far with the help of the Lord
Continue to commit your ways to Him, He will
direct your path.

We love you and are proud of your accomplishments.

Love Mom & Dad



Dear Sonja (a.k.a. Sassy)

A mother holds your hand for awhile but holds your heart forever. Who would have known we would have to experience this saying so soon in life? The void and loss we feel is so great because the person we lost was not only our mommy but our best friend. I thank God we are together during this time. I don't understand why it had to happen now but I know God's thoughts and ways are higher than my own and I trust that He will be with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:9).

I love you so much and am very proud of you and all you have accomplished. Although I have no clue where I will go after I graduate, I do know that if we are not that close in miles we will always be close in heart. (Plus I'll only be a phone call away. We can afford 10¢ a min.)

I love you. Love your little sister,
Tanya (a.k.a. T.J.)



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Spruill battles with martial arts on his side

Liberty senior Kevin Spruill ponders future Extreme Fighting in minors

By PAUL PIERSON
Champion Reporter

Art. The meaning of the word has many variables. A creative or imaginative creativity; the expressed arrangements of elements within a medium. It also can be interpreted as meaning a craft or a trade, cunningness, a skill. And of course the one who is the creator of art is an artist. Senior Kevin Spruill is an artist. His art is extreme fighting.

Some may ask, "How can extreme fighting be an art?" Extreme fighting is a discipline of the body, soul and mind. Many techniques and styles of martial arts are administered during matches. Extreme fighting is the "minor league system" of the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Since the young age of 6, Spruill has been studying martial arts. Although his technique is freestyle fighting, some of his other arts are: mui thai (thai boxing) and

Kenpo (chinese karate), which involve submission and bone-breaking moves along with wrestling and street fighting. Many artists are criticized for their works. Like many artists, Spruill's work has its own story. Growing up on the streets of Honolulu with his friends, Spruill quickly got involved in street fighting. It was only a matter of time before he got involved in the underground illegal fights. "Adrenaline was easy, it was a fear for my life, it was like a human cockfight," Spruill said.

Many movies glorify these fights, but according to Spruill they are nothing of the sort. "It wasn't as glorified as the movies made it out to be. The organizers were no different from drug lords or mafia men." If a fighter won, he was treated like royalty, if he lost, well, things didn't go very well. "You were pretty much a slave to your boss, it was not a shining part of my life."

When things appeared to be going from bad to worse in Kevin's life, he was befriended by the legendary Kimo. Kimo is considered one of the greatest UFC fighters ever. He is one of very few men ever to defeat the great Hoyce Gracey. Witnessing to Spruill's group of friends, Kimo soon led Kevin back to the church.

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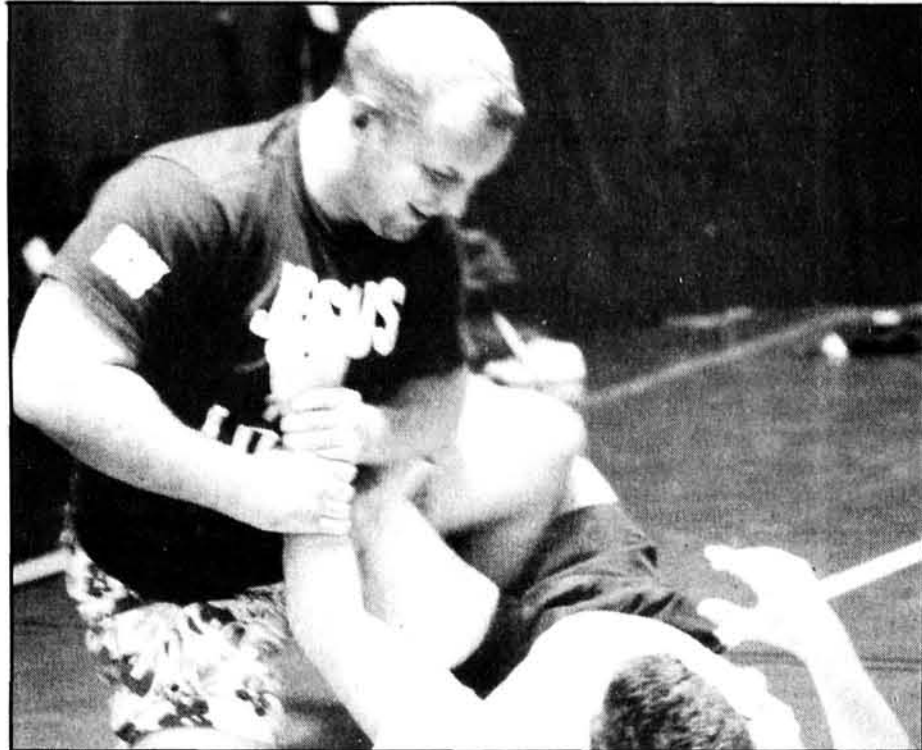
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Congratulations Shawn

You have made God and our family proud. On February 26th 1983, we became a blessed family. Continue living God's way and your life will be filled with jewels.

"And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him too for each day's problem." Col. 2:6

We Love You
Dad - Mom
Elizabeth & Margaret
Aunts, Uncles, cousins and friends

Misly Laslo -

Congratulations

from Dan, Mom, Todd, Matt, Kelly,

Mandy and Josh. We love you

and are very proud of you. The world

is a better place because of you!

To Craig Cassell

Craig all your hard work, studying late at night, all the prayers and lifting you up to God from Dad and me have finally paid off.

Congratulations and to God be the Glory. We love you and may God go with you whatever path you choose.

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and
Carol and David Blusher

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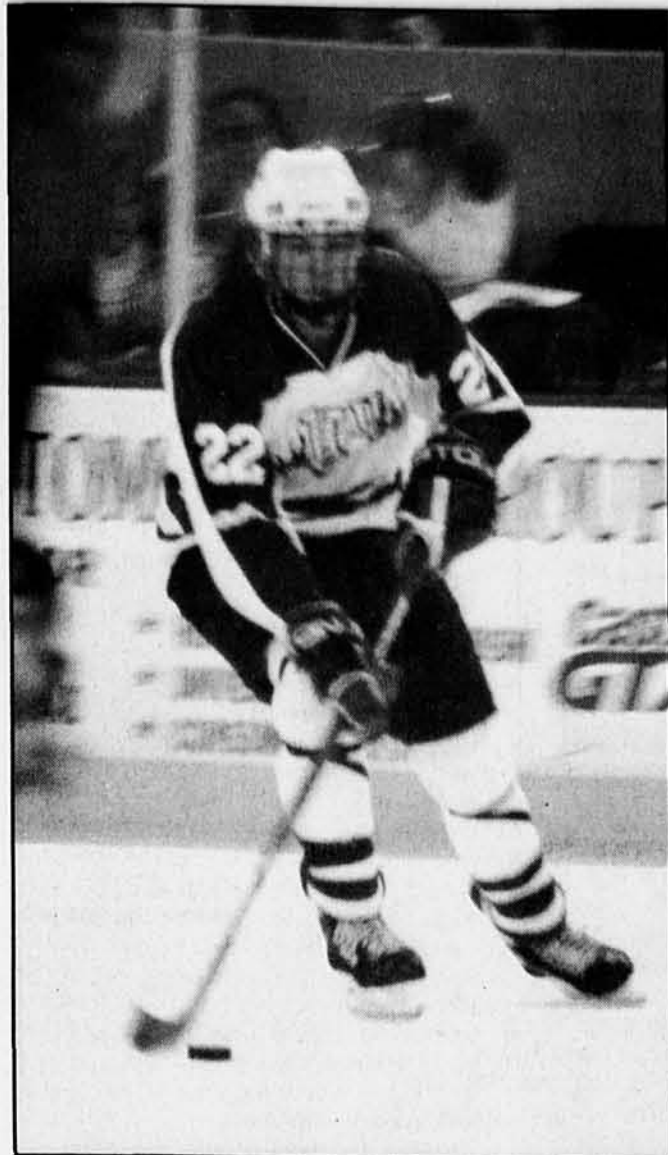
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THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, YOUR LOVING FAMILY

Dear Nick Campagna,

It's time to start another chapter of life may God guide your foot steps and His spirt protect you as you seek His will.

Love Mom & Dad

Congratulations Frapp!

You did it! We will soon be celebrating your success with you. Believe His promises and know that he will always guide you. We love you!

Mom & Anthony



Spruill battles with martial arts on his side

Liberty senior Kevin Spruill ponders future Extreme Fighting in minors

By PAUL PIERSON
Champion Reporter

Art. The meaning of the word has many variables. A creative or imaginative creativity; the expressed arrangements of elements within a medium. It also can be interpreted as meaning a craft or a trade, cunningness, a skill. And of course the one who is the creator of art is an artist. Senior Kevin Spruill is an artist. His art is extreme fighting.

Some may ask, "How can extreme fighting be an art?" Extreme fighting is a discipline of the body, soul and mind. Many techniques and styles of martial arts are administered during matches. Extreme fighting is the "minor league system" of the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Since the young age of 6, Spruill has been studying martial arts. Although his technique is freestyle fighting, some of his other arts are: mui thai (that boxing) and

Kenpo (chinese karate), which involve submission and bone-breaking moves along with wrestling and street fighting. Many artists are criticized for their works. Like many artists, Spruill's work has its own story. Growing up on the streets of Honolulu with his friends, Spruill quickly got involved in street fighting. It was only a matter of time before he got involved in the underground illegal fights.

"Adrenaline was easy, it was a fear for my life, it was like a human cockfight," Spruill said.

Many movies glorify these fights, but according to Spruill they are nothing of the sort. "It wasn't as glorified as the movies made it out to be. The organizers were no different from drug lords or mafia men." If a fighter won, he was treated like royalty, if he lost, well, things didn't go very well. "You were pretty much a slave to your boss, it was not a shining part of my life."

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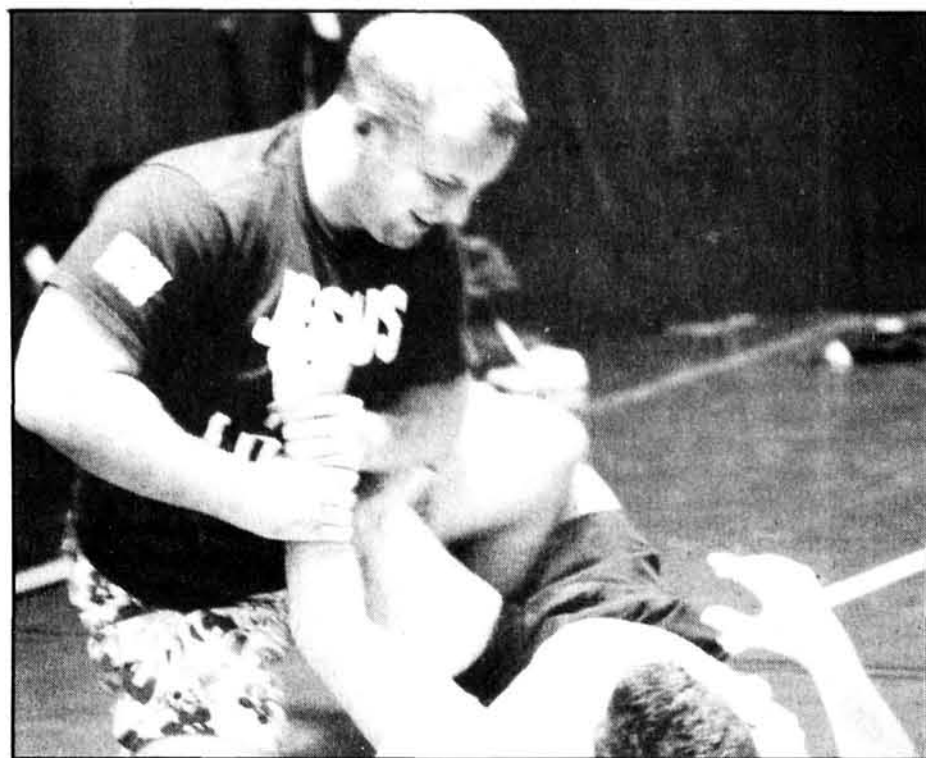
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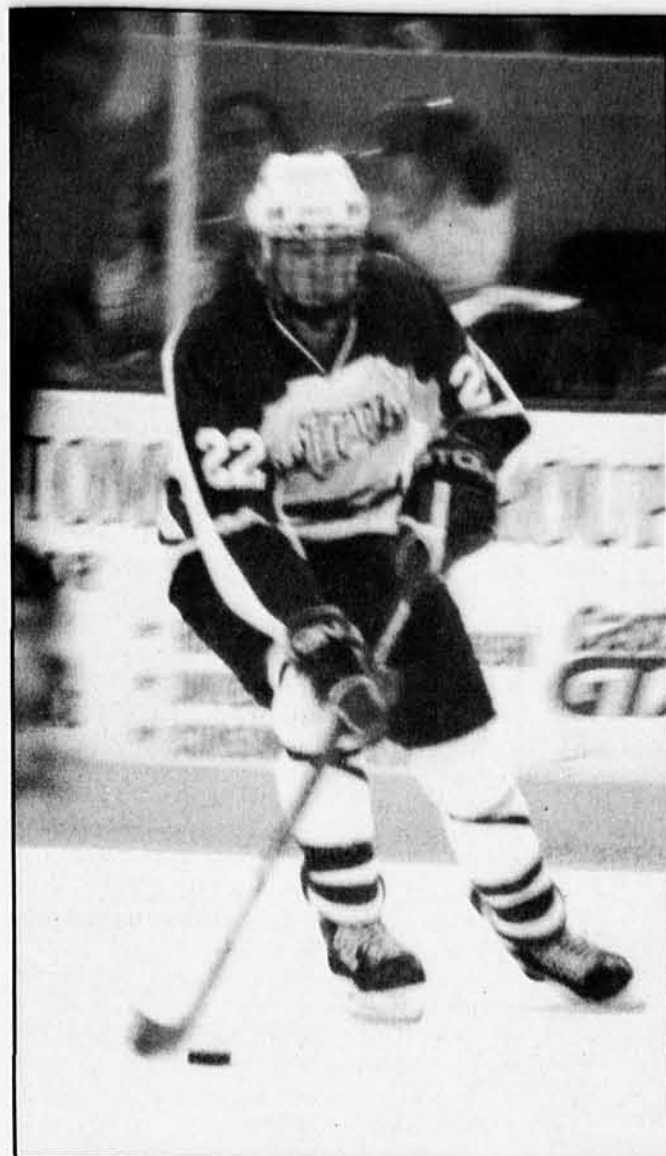
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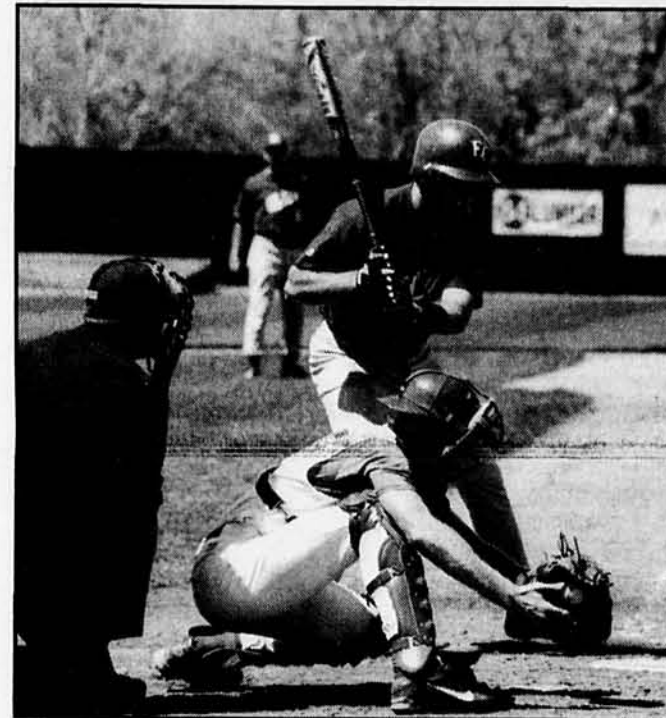
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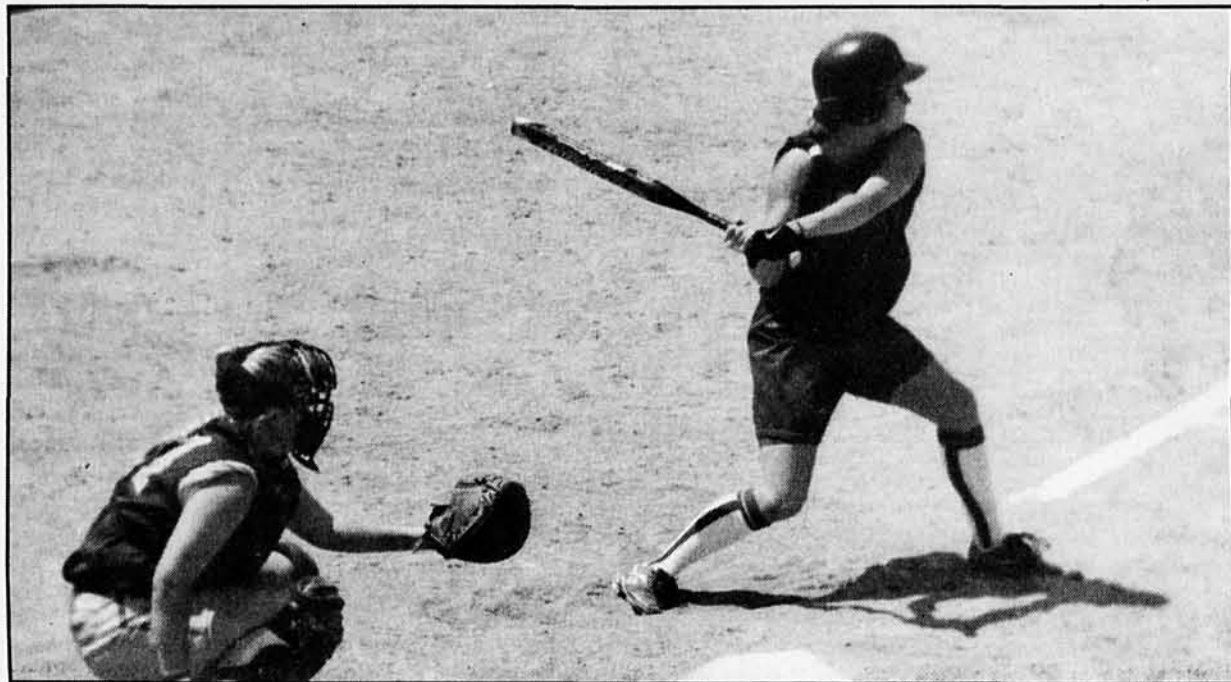


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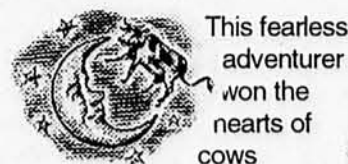


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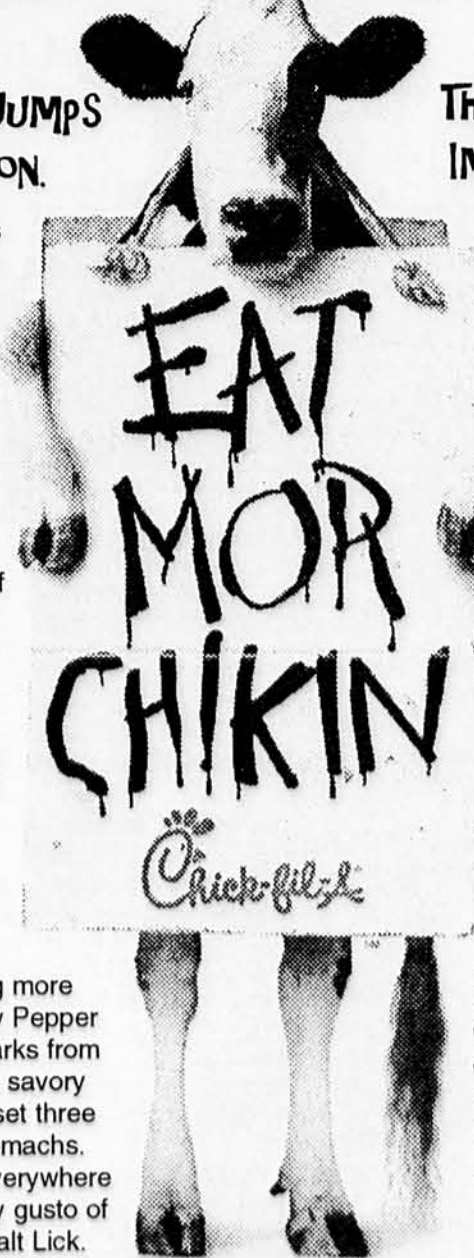
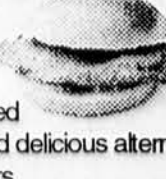
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OPINION

The Liberty Champion

The Official Newspaper of Liberty University
Established 1983

"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17)

The Bible class changes its requirements

For years, students have complained about the Bible classes' forced attendance policy at Thomas Road. Either they prefer to go to another church or they have plans on the week-end. Well, the Liberty "powers that be" deserve a huge round of applause because they have finally heard our cries for change.

Old and New Testament students are no longer required to attend Thomas Road Baptist Church. We would like to thank the administration for its sympathy in this situation.

Dr. Towns said he realized that students have other places to go on the week-ends, so they will make Thomas Road attendance extra-credit. He said that his Sunday school class will still parallel the course syllabus. The School of Religion expects the same amount of students to attend because of the bonus incentive.

Parking problem is unexpectedly worsened

There is a marked vision for change at Liberty. From renovations in DeMoss to six story dorms, improvement is on the way. In the meantime, the campus has shut off the majority of the pit for parking as they prepare for the changes.

Some people may say that the year is almost over, so students should just grin and bear it. However, since underclassmen have filled the circle and the remaining senior parking spots are quickly taken, many seniors have nowhere else to turn but to David's Place. That is approximately one mile from their destination.

One mile, back and forth, for the ten remaining days at Liberty is equivalent to twenty miles. Twenty Miles!!! Maybe they can grin and bear it for the first day, but high heels cutting into blistered toes can be very discomforting on the third mile.

Instead of rubbing this last torture into the Seniors, we think that it is about time that the upper class men get some of their well-deserved rights. In other words, make the Freshman park at David's Place. After all, they are young and fit.

Seniors have resumes to finish, job interviews to arrange and relatives to welcome for graduation. These long hikes are cutting into the precious few moments that they have left here at Liberty. This is our last request. Grant us our wish and we will disappear ten days from now with rested feet and smiles of appreciation on our faces.

Paying the May 1 bill is hard without forms

The registration deadline is quickly approaching. On May 1, our bills must be paid in full with loans, post-dated checks, or cash (for the few fortunate students who have money left after a year at Liberty). As we scrape together our funds and review our balances, there is just one problem — Mom and Dad have been sent all of our financial forms.

If our debts are not covered by May 1, then our schedules will be wiped away and our dorm requests will not be considered. This may be unfortunate, but there will be no excuses and no exceptions.

Students may overcome the difficulties of scraping money from their overdrawn accounts, but it will be hard to send in the forms that are miles and miles away from Liberty. So, next time send the students their mail because we can handle it.

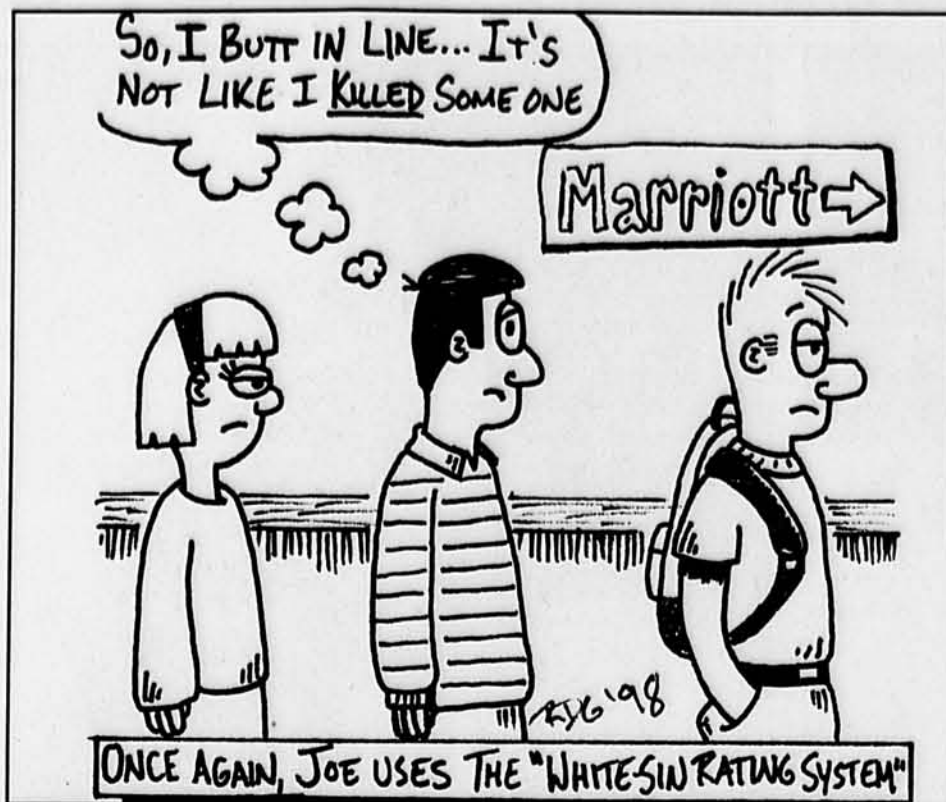
Quotes of the week...

"Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings."

— Psalms 17:8

"We have two ears and one mouth, so that we may talk less and listen more."

— Zeno, 3rd Century B.C.



Operation: "White Sin."

At 7 p.m., I walk through the sliding doors of the grocery store (whose name will remain anonymous). The manager eyes me and I turn from my original destination to aisle two. There, I pointlessly look at the calorie counts on Hamburger Helper boxes and do price checks on evaporated milk. When I think I am in the clear, I cautiously wander towards my goal.

Nested behind the flower section, hidden behind the hundreds of balloons, lies the candy bin! Malt balls, Jimmy Beans, Chocolate Covered Gummi Bears and Butter Popcorn flavored Jelly Beans!

Throwing caution to the wind, I snatch a piece here and a piece there. (Free Samples?) Before I know it, my mouth is full of Yogurt-Covered Pretzels and my pockets are stuffed with gourmet mints. Just before I jump into the bin of Hot Tamales and drown myself in its tantalizing spices, I recover my composure and retrace my footsteps.

The lady pushing her cart, eyes me suspiciously. Her child looks at me with disappointed eyes. The manager shoots daggers at my bulging pockets. The delinquents, hanging out in front of the store, nod at me with applauding grins... Aaaaaaaah! I'm a felon.

White sins. They seem so harmless. I mean everyone does it right? Whether it is a petty theft or a little lie, it's no big deal — right? ... Right? Well, that's what I thought before I came to Liberty. Then God blessed me with a roommate who is Mother Theresa, reincarnated, and a good friend named Gabriel.

When it comes to the "little things," these are two of the most perfect people that I have ever met. Not only have these two taught me the detriments of white sins, but I have also learned how my "innocent" failures add up to big, dark, ominous crimes.

I remember one of the first times that I encountered their condemnation. It was one of those nights when leprosy seems better than going to work. I just wanted to rest, study and relax. The last priority of my night was going to the "universal freshman" job at Trans America Telemarketing.

So, as they sat chatting in my room, I picked up the phone and rasped — "Uhhh, Chris (my supervisor), I'm not feeling too good (cough, cough). I just can't make it tonight, there is just no way. I'm really sorry." I was just about to jump back into the "Life of Sigmund Freud," when I caught Mother Theresa glaring at me — aghast!

She and her sidekick explained the horrors of calling in sick. I was an IRRESPONSIBLE, LYING, DECEITFUL, LAZY, DISAPPOINTING, DELIN-

QUENT!!! (and here I thought that my only crime was that my cough may have been a bit too much). What happened? It just started out as a little white lie; I just meant to take one piece of candy; I didn't know that sneaking in the back way at Marriott made me a thief; etc... It just seems so harsh, but, is it?

God said, "Do not Steal!" God said, "Do not lie." These are absolutes. (Sure, Rahab, the prostitute, might have gotten away with breaking the rules when she lied to the guards for the "greater good." But, I don't think a Butter Popcorn flavored Jelly Bean qualifies for this exception. Somehow, the Bible just would not have been the same if its characters would have justified tiny sins.)

Imagine if Esther would have ignored God when he asked her to confront the King, in order to save the Jews (for, he could kill her because he hadn't requested her presence), or if Daniel would have lied about praying at the window (after all, he was facing the lion's den), or if Jesus would have called in sick for his appointment with Zaccheus (I mean the guy was a greedy tax collector). It is so easy to make sins' look good. But, time after time, we see that if we will just stay obedient to God, He will give us the "greater good" and He will be glorified.

In fact, when we give in to little sins because it's "no big deal," that's when we encounter the dreaded "if only's." If only, David didn't sneak a peak at Basheba — he would have been spared God's wrath. If only Moses wouldn't have hit that rock so hard — he would have seen the promise land. If only Herod would have swallowed his first ounce of jealousy — thousands of babies would have been spared.

Sin has enormous consequences. Whether you are a pick-ax murder or a bubble-gum thief, your actions will result in discipline. All sins are equal in God's sight. They may seem little in society's eyes, but the problem is that the secular world bends the rules and extends the grey lines so much that soon there is no right and wrong.

For example, television's immorality did not start out that way. It began with couples in separate beds and then they were sharing one bed and then they were kissing in bed ... now it is hard to find a show where couples are not having illicit sex.

So think twice before you skip convocation next time. After all, God said to obey your authority and if you skip convo., you may have to lie about being sick. Then you have to miss all your classes, then you have to lie to your teachers, then you have to have your roommate deceive the cafeteria when she brings you food — Get the picture?



SUZANNE MCDUFFIE



JENNIFER PILLATH

So, Dad was right, you don't learn everything in class.

The day was sweltering. I sat at the kitchen table with a brass letter opener in my hand, fidgeting with the brochure I had placed on the table. Dad stood across the room, leaning against the cupboard as he mulled over his next choice of words. It appeared that this was time for another of my not-so-favorite chats, one which included a few choice thoughts on what I would be doing in the months to come.

"It's not all about school," Dad would say. "Just remember, don't let your education get in the way of your learning."

Of course, I didn't take Dad's words to heart immediately, for it has taken me years to understand the ramifications of that conversation.

And as I sit here with a year of Champion work behind me, I understand what he meant. I understand that although it feels wonderful to be on the Dean's List, or to receive high marks on a paper, that is not where the core of our college education comes from.

Rather, we meet people. We travel, we challenge each other. In part, our peers influence us to become thinkers and athletes and musicians and writers. During those four quickly fading years we call college, we have the opportunity to glean off of people from all different walks of life and we have the opportunity to learn far more than our teachers could ever pound into our exhausted minds.

As I look back on the past year in this office, I recognize that I am a different person than the one who entered here in August. I have learned to love Thoreau and Bronte again, not because of an English class, but because of the constant influence of those I spent time with.

I have rediscovered the refreshing impact of a hike on the Blue Ridge. I had perhaps forgotten what it was like to stand with my eyes closed on the mountain top while the wind pushed me off balance, but that feeling has once again been unearthed.

In the late nights that I have spent in this office, I have debated, argued, challenged, lost and won a variety of colorful arguments (ranging from what color the Scoobie Doo's character Daphne's hair was — for the ultra-curious, it is red, to the historical accuracy of college textbooks, to the theological implications of C.S. Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia"). Now where else could you get this type of education?

So it is with little apprehension that I take up my new position on this staff. Yes, grades may take second place at times now. My nights may be full of editing and writing. My days may be full of appointments and meetings and questions, but I will refuse to allow my time here to be limited.

Indeed, Dad was right. There are just some things that we can't miss out on. There are just times when we have to put our formal education on the back-burner and focus on the other aspects of college life.

For as we leave these doors with a sheet of paper in our hands, it will represent more than coursework and tests and projects. It will be full of life experiences, and it will be packed with information we have not learned in classes.

By working in this office, and by accepting my position as editor in chief, I do hope to build my resume and to prepare for my career. But I know that along with this job I will learn and I will be challenged, just as I have been already.

The Liberty Champion

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Liberty Champion Policies

The Liberty Champion encourages members of the community to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. Letters appearing in the Liberty Forum do not necessarily represent the views of the Champion's editorial board or Liberty University.

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

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

Please address letters to "Editor, Champion" and drop them off in DH 110 or mail to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24506.

Speak "Name one improvement that you would like to see on Liberty's facilities."



"Computers in every room."

— Christine Large, Jr



"More Parking."

— April Golden, Jr.



"Why are they trying to put four people in a broom closet?"

— Larry Buchanan, Jr.



"More Parking."

— Meredith Rainbow, Jr.



"A shuttle on campus."

— Sikumbuzo Kunene, Jr.



"Better utilization of the space inhabited by the 'Spirit Rock'."

— Dave Dalton, Sr.

— Photos by Shawn Eldridge

COMMENTARY

One Murderer determines relations between countries

By SUZIE FULKES
Champion Editor

The world has been in a stir over the execution of Paraguayan Angel Francisco Breard on April 14, 1998. He was given lethal injection in the state of Virginia for the murder of Ruth Dickie in 1992.

But the controversy is not over a presumption that he might not have been guilty. However, anti-death penalty advocates are trying to convince citizens that his innocence is the issue. In reality, the international fiasco is rooted in the fact that Breard was not informed of his right to receive consular help from Paraguay. The country is upset because this assistance policy is a mandatory requirement of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

This conflict between the U.S. and Paraguay is unnecessary, because Breard had the chance

to remedy this when his case went to the appeals court. The Paraguayan consuls in the United States contend that they would have advised Breard to take a plea agreement, thereby, sparing his life.

Breard, instead, claimed his actions were not his fault (how unusual) because his former father-in-law placed a Satanic curse on him and he had no choice. Breard murdered this innocent woman, who was his neighbor, in cold-blood. He stabbed her five times in the neck, attempted to rape her and then left her naked from the waist down.

The World Court and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright attempted to halt the execution because of fear that

Americans could possibly be denied their rights if arrested in other countries.

Paraguay also fought to stop the execution with the help of International Court of Justice by asking the United States to delay. Virginia Governor Gilmore went ahead and allowed the execution to take place, as he should have.

Breard had the opportunity to correct this at the appellate level and did not.

Instead of using the help of an entire country, he used the determinism argument by claiming that he was not responsible for this crime. The fact that he rejected his country's assistance reveals that he was a very sick man. He killed an innocent woman in cold blood.

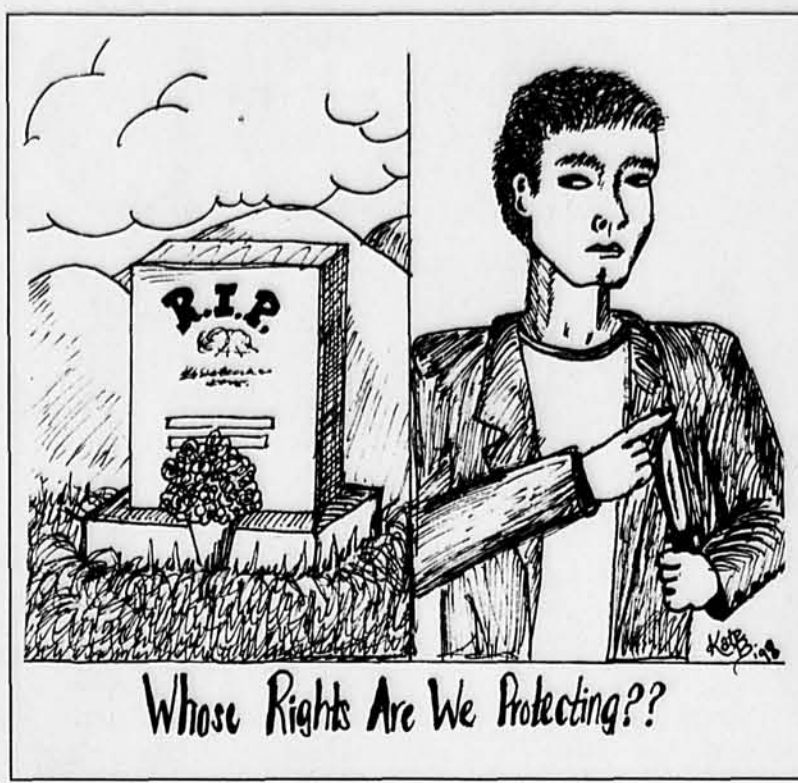
Whether this occurred in

Paraguay or America, this is a crime worthy of death. Therefore, the United States should not be held responsible for this violation.

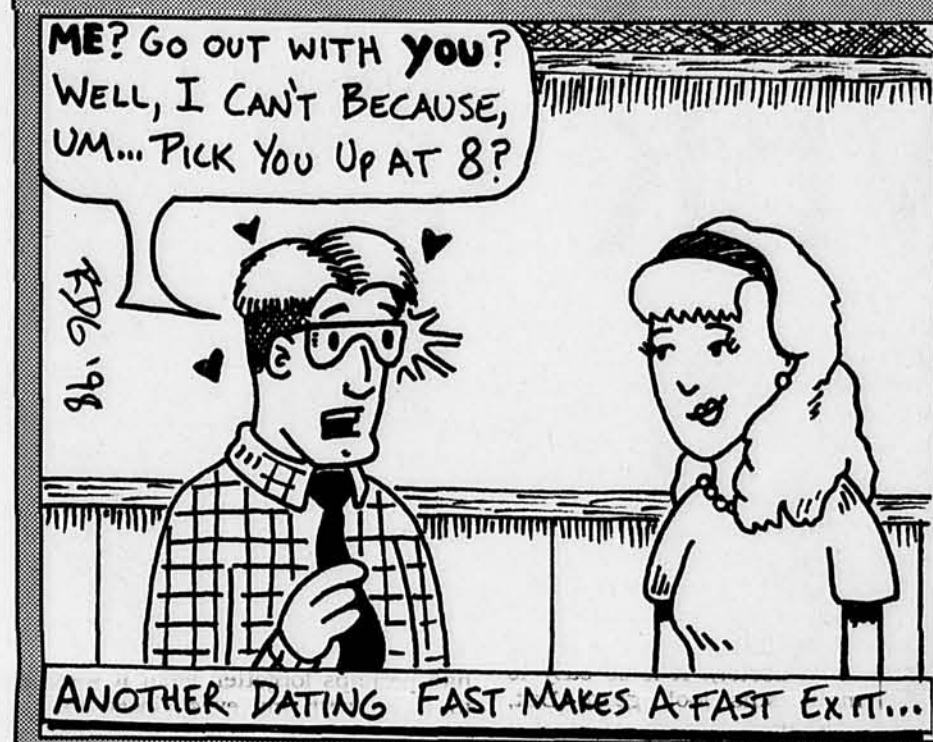
Despite the fact that justice was incurred, it was reported on April 20, 1998, that Paraguay may seek monetary damages from the U.S. government for the execution of this well-deserving murderer. What a joke! Why should his family get any restitution? Society is moving backward faster and faster with each passing day.

The U.S. government should stand strong and not back down from this issue. One murderer should not determine the relations between countries.

Gov. Gilmore did the right thing; he protected the rights of American citizens in the state of Virginia, and everywhere, by protecting us and not the criminal who deserved to die.



So, you're going on another "dating fast?"



By BRUCE COLLIER
Champion Editor

The following was taken from my personal journal on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, 1998. Please understand that it was difficult to print such personal material in the paper, but it has to be done. (The following journal entry is a satire and should be viewed as such.)

February 2, 1998

"Dear Journal, I have had it. I have finally made up my mind that I am not going on another date for the rest of my life. Girls are nothing but trouble and I keep getting burned. Well, maybe that sounds harsh, maybe I'll just stop dating for six months. Doing this will give me time to think and take a break from the 'real world'. Hmmm! What should I call this little hiatus from women? I know... I'll call it a 'girl fast'. And so, dear journal, today, I enter the new life of girl fasting."

February 3, 1998

"Dear Journal, Never mind... I met this girl and she is hot. She asked me for my number and so... it must be God's will. I'm officially off this fasting bit and I'm back in the saddle again! Whew! I'm glad that's over."

Many of my friends have decided to go on either guy or girl fasts (depending upon their gender). This is not a problem. The problem lies in the fact that once they embark on this journey of social

solitude, they end up breaking it off a day or two later (at least in the majority of cases I have encountered).

It's true that many times, we as college students will experience a rough relationship or two or three, or have struggles in our dating lives. This is certainly normal and it can be dealt with. For some, fasting from relationships has even proven to be a beneficial and worthwhile endeavor. It is a wise and mature person, who can discipline themselves and not become involved in a dating relationship based on prior mistakes.

However, if someone is going to make a vow, then he needs to keep it. Beyond that, he should not announce it to everyone he knows. Doing so, only proves that his social commitment is no longer special.

Entrusting this type of information to one or two close friends is understandable. This way, they can help and keep the "date faster" honest. Another reason for keeping this information secret is because, if the oath maker decides to quit his commitment, then his whole dorm won't be aware of his on-again/off-again, impulsiveness.

Being a guy, I can say that it's very difficult to hear this excuse from a potential girlfriend. I can understand it, if it's a commitment being made between a girl and God (so, who am I to try to mess with that?). If people plan to date-fast, for whatever reason, they should make sure that they are sincere.

Other wise, you'll be another person on the long list of people, who have made this type of commitment and broken it. Then, one day, some crazy guy will write an article about you to be printed in the Liberty Champion.

Liberty Forum

I may shop at the Salvation Army, but I fit the "Liberty Way."

Dear Editor,

In a world where people busily fight to become successful, and are more concerned with finance than with family, we go to college in preparation for the day that we also join the rat race. We swing between freedom and responsibility, searching for identity; and for this fleeting time, we still have a chance to be young.

I do believe that the dress code, whatever it may be, should be enforced with consistency. However, I personally, do not share your view that our students dress inappropriately for class and should strive to look more professional. God made people as different as he made the varieties of flowers, food and animals. He made us creative and unique.

Clothing is a harmless outlet of our creative expression. As long as clothes are modest and within the standing dress code, I do not understand how this could be offensive.

Maybe, one day, I will become governed by "fashion consciousness," never wearing black shoes after Easter and scoffing at navy-blue and black ensembles. I will only shop at the Limited Express, and out of the J. Crew catalogue, and I will look just like you — a mere face in a very "professional crowd."

According to the Liberty Way, Vans are acceptable for girls. There is no differentiation between the types of shoes that girls must wear for casual or class dress.

I am not against the dress code, nor am I a rebel. Even a uniform would benefit many students, saving us the half hour of deciding what to wear each morning. For now, we have a slight window of freedom and self-expression, in which we can reside well within all standards of our current dress code.

— Corina Hanson

Let's replace the rotten republicans with a new party

Dear Editor,

I am the father of two kids that graduated from Liberty in 1990. I was delighted when I read the article, "Do Republicans have any Moral Standards Left?"

As your article clearly points out, the Republican Party is morally bankrupt. Maybe Liberty students should take a look at the U.S. Tax-Payer Party (a third party). America cannot go without God.

Thanks for a great article, I read it four times.

— Dan Kauffman

Vote for social conservatives, not business conservatives

Dear Editor,

Since two of the Republican candidates for Lynchburg City Council, this spring, are not pro-life or social conservatives, I hope that Champion and LU students will give the strongly pro-life candidates a fair shake and fair hearing

— Jane Bradford Thurber

It's time to hold the true source of corrupt children accountable

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the commentary, "Parents should be held responsible for the actions of their children" — April 14, 1998.

Blaming others, or things for our own corrupt actions is an intriguing concept for me. Accusing firearms, baseball bats, pogo sticks or ones' parents as being the root cause for depriving someone of their life, liberty or of their pursuit of happiness is truly odd. Seriously, how can any tool or piece of sports equipment suggest to the one holding it that they should violate all established morals and conventions of Western civilization, and go haywire, wreaking death and destruction upon innocent people?

Thanks to the modern psycho-socialists (Democrats and Republicans) who control the various media "Bread and Circuses," along with our government, we have done just that.

I am wont to ask, why is television (tell-a-vision) never identified as "The" major influence for many actions of the sick heads we read about today? Let us consider a few truthful observations concerning this "inert" medium that permeates virtually every home, hospital room, laundromat and dormitory room in this Christian land.

When was the last time you viewed any prime-time cop show where some poor schlep wasn't blown away (ala Dirty Harry style) in some really cool gun action? How about the last time you watched a scene between a man and a woman, who were married? Were the actors married? And even if they were, why would you be viewing them in the most intimate of moments that are reserved to be shared only between a husband and his

wife? Remember Noah's nakedness? Remember Ham? (Hello?)

It seems that the inhabitants of our western culture are being transformed into a gaggle of unashamed voyeuristic perverts. I would like to quote a few lines from William Blakes', "Lullaby" — "O who hath caused this? O who can answer at the throne of God? The Kings and Nobles of the Land have done it! Hear it not, Heaven, thy ministers have done it!"

By what means do governments control things? The electronic media is regulated and licensed through the Federal Communications Commission, it is quite clear that the intent is not to provide a godly influence upon the sheep in our land, but to allow the antichrist (wolves in sheep's clothing) to lead us all astray.

Is this not obvious? Do we see, yet not see? What will it take for us, as chosen people of God, to tear down this sewage-infested, one-eyed Baal (Yes, folk— it's an IDOL!) and return to our God with a repentant heart? Does our creator not call us to dwell on those things which are good for our edification and uplifting?

You know, maybe it isn't such a bad idea to hold parents responsible for the actions of their children, because, just possibly, that might cause the rams (Christian men) in our land to root out the pagan, antichrist wolves who dominate the movie industry in Hollywood... "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth..."

— Andrew Sansone

Dr. Borek deserves the spotlight for all his hard work

Dear Editor,

We students, faculty, and all who care about making Liberty a first-class university, should support Dr. Borek and his plan for making this campus a student friendly one. What a concept? Who would have thought of it?

But still, we have neglected to show our support, and it's importance can't be overly emphasized. As J.F.K. put it, (with a little twist) — Ask not what your campus can do for you, but what you can do for your campus. Dr. Borek has a dream, and we all need to do our part in making it happen.

It's very appropriate for Dr. Borek to be our commencement speaker. I and many others, would like to flip our caps in reverence to God for this president's vision and efforts regarding Liberty and its students.

— Robert Gantea

It's time to secure the security

Dear Editor,

Have you ever noticed that the campus security follows each other around? Because, if one breaks down, then the other car will be right there to pick them up. Lately they look like the Dukes of Hazard because their doors are broken and they have to climb through the windows.

I know we all joke about the security guards, but they do serve a purpose here on campus. If there was a real emergency, I do not think those cars are in any kind of condition to get there quickly. Sometimes, the situation might even be a matter of life and death.

The students drive better cars than the security guards do. When was the last time the LUPD got new cars? 15 years?

Hopefully, the administration will realize the importance of this concern. The security guards need operating cars that will get them to emergencies quickly.

They should not have to worry if their cars will break down or even start. If our campus is to have guards, then they need proper equipment. You wouldn't expect a doctor to operate without proper equipment, so how can we expect security to do the same?

— Jeanine Chappell

Thompson's election signals another year of poor SGA leadership

Dear Editor,

Although the 1998 SGA presidential election has been hailed as one of the cleanest in our school's history, the results were regrettable.

The election of Alfred Thompson as president shows that either the voting student body does not pay attention to what the candidates say, or that they don't want the SGA president to ever do anything worthwhile.

I'm not saying that Jeff Coleman would have been able to break the bonds that SGA exists under, but at least he had a plan. Coleman had thought about what SGA needed to do.

Alfred Thompson, on the other hand, had no concrete idea of what he wanted to do. More importantly, he had no idea what he needed to do. And yet he won.

Now we have a president who will be glad to give us a hug or a handshake, but who is lost outside of the group, therapy, session atmosphere.

— Randy King

Liberty University's Spiritual Emphasis Week



Randy Hogue



Rick Gage



Aaron • Jeffrey

Charles
Billingsley

*will NEVER
be the
same!*



Scott Camp

Josh
McDowell

Rick Gage "Go Tell" Crusade

September 6-9, 1998
7:00 p.m. Nightly • Vines Center • Liberty University

The "Coach"

Rick Gage excelled at two skills early in life: the art of playing football and the art of playing church. At a young age he showed promise as an athlete, attempting and excelling at nearly every sport he tried. However, football soon took precedence over them all. Rick played football, his first love, from the time he entered Little League in elementary school until years later when he earned a scholarship to play in college.

While honing his football skills throughout his childhood and teenage years, Rick also demonstrated great aptitude for playing another game — a game with much more at stake. Rick learned to play "church."

The son of a well-known evangelist, Dr. Freddie Gage, Rick and his three brothers attended church every time the doors were open. However, despite the solid Christian training he received at home and church, Rick never developed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

During his junior high years, the friends Rick associated with introduced him to alcohol and smoking. By the time he reached his sophomore year in high school, he was heavily involved in the party scene. Yet each Sunday morning Rick was in church. Sometimes he even led the Sunday School assembly, always maintaining a perfect Christian image. Rick had mastered the art of playing "church."

Just before his senior year of high school, Rick was confronted with his need of a Saviour. When the Gage family visited the Bay Area Baptist Church to hear Dr. J. Harold Smith preach, Rick listened intently as Dr. Smith preached his famous sermon, "God's Three Deadlines." His heart pounded with fear as he thought of his own

deadline, and how he had defiantly ignored God's will. No longer rebellious, but broken and weeping, Rick walked the aisle that morning to recommit his life to God. Unfortunately, what his counselor did not realize was that Rick had never committed his life to the Lord. Rick left the counseling room that morning sorrowful, but still lost.

Despite this tragic mistake, for a short period of time Rick reformed. During his senior year, he turned his back on the party scene. He read his Bible, prayed regularly and focused on his dream of playing college football and eventually becoming a major college coach.

The next summer, it appeared that Rick's dreams were beginning to come true. After rigorous tryouts and practices, he was given a full scholarship to play wide receiver at Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Texas before transferring to Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. Unfortunately, this success led Rick back into his sinful habits, and new ones — such as frequent drug use — began. This destructive pattern continued throughout his college career.

After graduating from college, Rick continued down the road to attaining his dream when he was hired as an assistant football coach at West Texas State University. He quickly began learning all he could under the direction of head coach Bill Young, a committed Christian whose faith was evident in every aspect of team life. Rick's background in church enabled him to fit in, and he found himself, once again, acting the part of a religious young man.

Just one year later, Rick was offered a shot at the "big time." A coaching position became available in the highly respected Southwest Conference at Texas Tech University. He eagerly accepted the position and threw himself into his work. At the same time, Rick pursued a life of sin just as vigorously.

"During this period, my life began to slide downhill

... I became caught up in a lot of the worldly activities that go on in the coaching profession. Gambling, drinking, smoking and using marijuana then cocaine became commonplace," stated Rick.

Two short years after obtaining his coaching position at Texas Tech, Rick's dreams of greatness came crashing in around him. Released from his position at Texas Tech, and unable to find another position, Rick again turned to alcohol and partying. Rick describes this period of his life in this way: "I was miserable. For years I had ignored God and made decisions to advance my career. My choices had forsaken spiritual values. I had chosen the low road and had come to a dead-end street in my life. I was so down, so discouraged, and so very depressed; I was desperate to reach out to someone."

Instead of turning to God, he continued to look for relief in alcohol, drugs and partying. But what Rick did not know is that God was working ... and that he would soon be confronted with the disaster his life had become.

During Christmas of 1983, at the prompting of his father, Rick attended a service at Trinity Church where Evangelist James Robison was preaching. Using Isaiah 61:1, James Robison spoke of the captivity of sin. He proclaimed Jesus Christ — the one who could help the worst sinner make a new life. That night, Rick had an encounter with the One who could save him from the sin that held him prisoner, the "Head Coach" of his life, the Lord Jesus Christ! Confronted by his sin, Rick confessed and asked Jesus to forgive him. He prayed that God would use his life in a way that would draw others to Him.

Soon Rick began traveling with his father in evangelistic ministry. However, his desire to coach football remained strong. In 1984 he became the running back coach at Liberty University. The two years Rick spent at

Liberty were a tremendous time of spiritual growth. During this time he felt strongly that God was calling him to full-time ministry; however, he knew this would require him to leave the career he loved behind. Struggling with the decision, he was told by well-known evangelist Manley Beasley: "Rick, you will never be able to get away from that call." Indeed, while attending the 1986 convention of the American Football Coaches Association in New Orleans, Rick found he had no longer desired to interact with the other coaches, or to indulge in his former immoral lifestyle. Leaving the convention early, he returned to Liberty, surrendered to the call to full-time evangelism, and enrolled in Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

Within a year, Rick became an associate evangelist with Dr. Bailey Smith and "Real Evangelism," spearheading the youth rallies and school assemblies on all of the crusades. Through Christ, he was able to reach thousands of lost teenagers.

In 1988, he met Lynne Peek, the girl he eventually married. In the following years, God blessed Rick with two lovely daughters. During this time, Rick launched the Rick Gage Evangelistic Association.

Today, Rick speaks throughout the world in crusades, summer camps, high school assemblies and church revivals, sharing the news of the saving and healing work of Jesus Christ. He can speak first-hand of danger of playing church. It is said that there is no limit to what God can do with a life that is sold out to Him. Rick Gage is not only an example of this truth, but also of the lengths that God will go in order to bring that life to His saving grace. Perhaps you, like Rick, have spent your life pursuing things that do not bring satisfaction. If so, we encourage you to give your heart to God today. Only He can bring the lasting satisfaction you seek. ■