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# LIBERTYCHAMPION

LIBERTY.EDU/CHAMPION • TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009 • VOL. 26 ISSUE 13

## NEWS BRIEFS

### U.S. STRIKES PAKISTAN'S BORDER

Two missile attacks killed at least 22, including eight foreign fighters last Friday in Pakistan's remote border region with Afghanistan, according to MSNBC.com. The foreigners were believed to be part of al-Qaeda, and one of them could possibly be a senior al-Qaeda figure from Egypt. There have been many similar U.S. strikes in Pakistan (more than 30 since August 2008), but this was the first incident since the installation of the new U.S. administration in Washington. Pakistani government officials protested, citing the attacks makes it more difficult for them to quell growing militant unrest in the region.

### ABORTION POLICY SWINGS LEFT

Part of a direct reversal of the policies of the past eight years concerning abortion in the U.S. was made apparent Friday as President Obama lifted the ban on national funding for education and performance of abortions overseas, according to FoxNews.com. Liberals argue that this action will help reduce unwanted pregnancies, abortions and dangerous pregnancies worldwide, while conservatives see it as a partisan act. The ban has been instituted and lifted twice already since President Ronald Reagan instituted it in 1984.

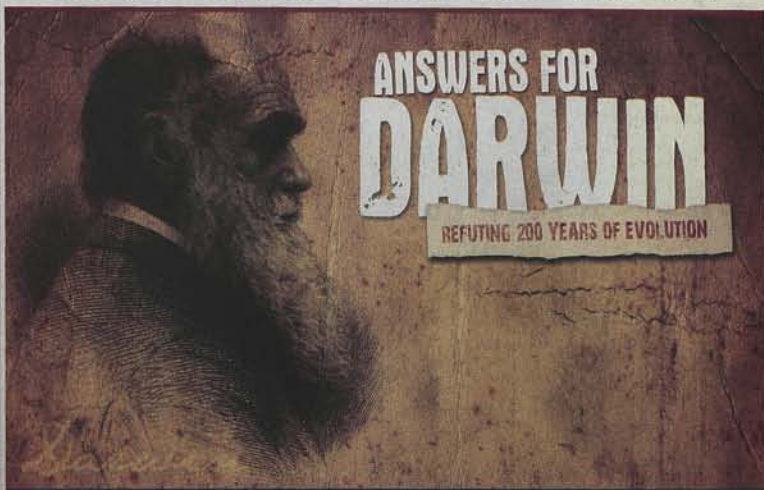
### MURDER MINUS MOTIVE

Not long after Wednesday's brutal murder of a female Virginia Tech student, 22-year-old Xin Yang, Haiyang Zhu was taken into custody and charged in her stabbing, according to the Roanoke Times. Speculation arose that the two had been involved romantically, but those assumptions are unfounded, according to the school's international community director Kim Belsecker. Friends of both students were caught off guard by this incident and provided authorities with little information regarding possible motive behind the murder.

### RECORD HIGH INTERNET USERS

Use of the Internet for communication and information have reached record numbers. "Global internet usage reached over 1 billion unique visitors in the month of December," according to CNET.com. The Asia-Pacific region is number one in the world making up nearly half (41.3 percent) of the total international population using the Internet. The U.S. placed third in worldwide Internet usage with 18.4 percent, right behind Europe at 28 percent.

## THE ORIGIN OF MAN



### INTELLIGENTLY REFUTING DARWIN'S THEORY DANIEL MARTINEZ • NEWS REPORTER

In a February expected to be an important month for the science community, Liberty is planning a number of events focused on biblical creation prominent among them the Liberty Law Review's second annual symposium.

Evolutionists are expected to rally around the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth Feb. 12 and the 150th anniversary of the publication of "Origin of the Species" in order to promote their ideas of evolution and natural selection.

So the Liberty Law Review, a scholarly journal presenting issues of law, according to the School of Law's Director of Public Affairs Christopher Breedlove is holding its second symposium with the plan of answering that movement.

The primary focus of the symposium will be the

legal issue of whether public schools can teach intelligent design alongside evolution.

Additionally the biology department and Thorns Road Baptist Church (TRBC) are co-hosting two events which will be discussing the problems with evolution and how creation provides a better explanation for life on earth. Biology Professor Dr. David DeWitt said.

One of the major theories creationists support is the theory of irreducible complexity.

"Irreducible complexity," DeWitt said, "refers to biochemical systems that require many different components simultaneously for the system to function."

Natural selection, in the Darwinian sense, refers to keeping systems that work, and without every part,

those systems do not work, DeWitt explained. Thus, irreducibly complex systems cannot be produced by natural selection. It points out the need for an intelligent design perspective.

The symposium, which will be held on Friday, Feb. 6, will feature writers presenting their articles and answering questions," Breedlove said. Those writers will include Casey Luskin of the Discovery Institute, Professor Jay Wedder of Boston University and John Calvert of the Intelligent Design Network. The chief guest will be the symposium dinner's speaker, Dr. Michael Behe.

Behe, a biochemist, is the author of the book "Darwin's Black Box."

See SYMPOSIUM on A2

## CALL-IN RADIO SHOW DEBUTS

Matthew Coleman  
NEWS REPORTER

LibertyLive, the university's newest radio program, began last Monday at 4 p.m. The call-in show is hosted by Matthew Staver, dean of Liberty Law, and co-hosted by Matthew Barber, associate dean for career and professional development at the law school.

Staver, who originally had the idea to start is no stranger to radio and television shows, making up to a 1,000 yearly appearances, and he originally had the idea to start LibertyLive. To help bring this dream to life, he invited executives from the American Family Association (AFA) to the campus for a tour and an overview of his vision. A technological powerhouse for the Christian community, the AFA liked Staver's idea and was eager to help get LibertyLive on the airwaves.

"They have the delivery (capabilities) with new media in various formats, and Liberty has the content," Staver said. "We brought the two together so that Liberty's content and all the things we do can be distributed through some of the AFA's new media systems."

The hour-long radio program covers a broad variety of topics ranging from ethics to politics, and has special speakers and experts to give commentary on the subject matters. In its first week,

LibertyLive hosted many renowned names, such as Fireproof Co-Producer Stephen Kendrick, Oregon Congressman Greg Walden, President of Teen Pact Tim Echols and Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. Sarah Serr, legal director for the Liberty Center for Law and Policy in Washington, will be on staff to give weekly updates on public policies from the capital, according to a Law School press release.

Given the nature of the program and the topics that are covered, there is great potential for heated debates to start, not only from the hosts and guest speakers, but from the listeners, as well. In an effort to get the audience off of the sidelines and into the game, listeners can blog on the LibertyLive Web site about their thoughts on the topic matter.

"At the end of the day, our conservative values will win," Staver said. "And we are not afraid to put them out there and debate."

LibertyLive also offers listeners the chance to call in and voice their opinions on the subject matter. The host will allow anyone to speak and debate a topic, according to Staver.

See LIBERTYLIVE on A2



## Right to Life Groups March on D.C.

Aubrey Blankenship  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

A busload of Liberty students joined a throng of hundreds of thousands on the mall in Washington D.C. last Thursday for the 36th annual March for Life. Held each year on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the United States Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, the March for Life attracts pro-life supporters who wish to bring the pro-life message to their nation's leaders.

"I think that today was not just about talking to a crowd of believers in pro-life, but to tell our new president, 'Hey, our voices need to be heard too,'" freshman Hannah Hunt said.

On Pennsylvania Avenue a mother stood with a wide-eyed child on her hip holding a sign that read, "We babies love life."

Dressed in coats, hats and gloves, and holding signs and banners, people of all ages gathered in a city that two days before had welcomed a multitude celebrating change. This throng, too, wanted change. Yet it wanted change that would stop an estimated 3,000 unborn infants from being killed each day.

"We need change now more than ever," Pastor Luke Robinson of Frederick, Md. said in an address to the crowd. He quoted Mother Theresa in an admonition to fight for the life of each unborn infant. "It is poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish," Robinson said.

The Liberty students who attended felt strongly that abortion is wrong and that they as Christians, need to do something about it.

"Abortion is murder and God says 'Thou shalt not kill,'" freshman John Talbert said. "I always wanted to do something like this, but I never really did before. This was the big one, so I was like, 'Let's do it.' So I did."

Excitement was thick as the body of people began to march from the Capitol to the Supreme Court Building.

"I chose to come today because I feel like we need to make a stand — not just with our words — but by actively doing something, even if it's something as small as being a part of a crowd," freshman Amanda Haas said. "It really did give me a sense of patriotism seeing that this is what America is about — all different people living in the country and fighting for what's right."

The pro-life marchers knew that they had their work cut out for them, as they expected President Barack Obama to push the pro-choice agenda. The day after the march, Obama reversed a Bush administration ban on providing federal money for international groups that perform or offer information about abortions.

Pro-life supporters, however, are not deterred. "There is hope," Haas said. "We have the truth and we have the better argument. We just need to know how to voice it and get our voices heard. This is the crucial time."

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## SYMPOSIUM

Continued from A1

"He argued that irreducible complexity poses a serious challenge to Darwinian evolution," DeWitt said. "His book played a major role in promoting intelligent design."

Besides the symposium talk with Behe, Liberty has other events planned for next month, including a seminar entitled "Whatever Happened to Darwin's Tree of Life" that will take place on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in DeMoss 1113. Dr. Paul Nelson, a fellow of the Discovery Institute, will tackle the issue of genomic data that calls into question the common ancestry of life.

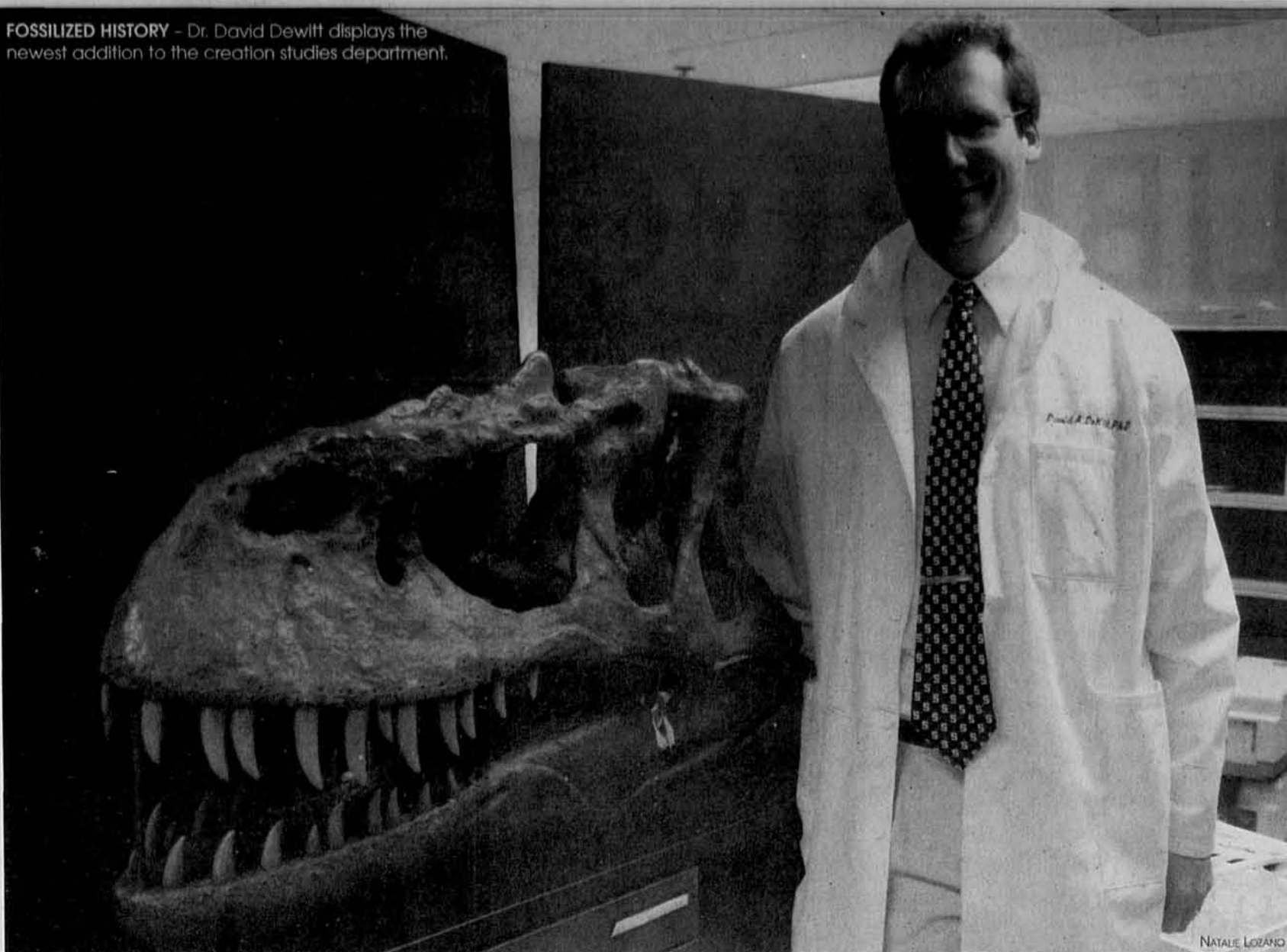
On Feb. 15-17 at TRBC, Liberty is holding the Answers for Darwin Conference. DeWitt and Professor Marcus Ross will give talks on biology and geology and fossils, respectively.

"It will be imperative for us to get the word out about these events in media venues," DeWitt said. "Because of the media fury that will be occurring during the next month, it would be great if they (the media) know that there are credentialed scientists who reject molecules-to-man evolution."

For more information about these events, contact the School of Law at 434-592-5300. Attendance for the symposium itself is free.

Contact Daniel Martinez at  
dpmartinez@liberty.edu.

**FOSSILIZED HISTORY** - Dr. David DeWitt displays the newest addition to the creation studies department.



NATALIE LOZANO

LIBERTY LIVE  
CONTINUED FROM A1

"We want to be able to talk to millions of people around the country with regards to social, political (and) moral issues and we want them to talk back."

Through the AFA's radio stations, Liberty Live is being broadcast through 130 separate stations, forming nationwide coverage. Attempts are also being made to get the show broadcasted over satellite radio and Direct TV.

In addition to Liberty Live's radio segment, the show also has a live video feed shot from two separate camera angles that is broadcast over the internet. Those who cannot receive the show's signal over the radio can log onto [www.lc.org](http://www.lc.org), click the Liberty Live icon and watch the show live.

Contact Matthew Coleman at  
mcoleman@liberty.edu.

## TeenPact Scholarship

Liberty School of Law's recently launched radio program, "Liberty Live," announced a new scholarship offered by the School of Law. The New Generation TeenPact scholarship will be offered to an outstanding student who has finished the TeenPact program.

TeenPact is a week-long program designed to help high school students gain hands-on experience while learning about the judicial process. The program is designed for aspiring law students hoping to attend Liberty's law school, and will be hosted on campus.

The program is founded by Tim Echols, who appeared on the Liberty Live program, along with freshman Sarah Spillar who is the first candidate of the scholarship.

"TeenPact is interested in training a new generation, as is Liberty interested in training a new generation of world leaders," Dean of the School of Law Matt Staver said. "This scholarship recognizes outstanding members of that program."

- Amanda Forth

## Diving deep: Students explore mysterious waters

Anthony Barone  
NEWS REPORTER

Adventure seekers who missed the first opportunity for scuba lessons will soon have another opportunity to acquire and practice scuba diving skills.

The two-week course, taught by Master Scuba Diving Instructor J.D. Emerson, will be held at the LaHaye Student Center Pool at North Campus.

Sessions will be held at LaHaye on Feb. 17, 19, 24 and 26 with open-water classes Feb. 28 and March 1.

The inaugural class of 10 had its first open-water instruction at a lake in Blanch, N.C. this weekend.

They are also getting ready for their upcoming written and physical examination.

Each session has taught students a variety of diving skills in a controlled environment while preparing them to dive in the outdoors.

"My family has taken lessons on cruises before," Ryan Preacher said. "This is much more informative and in-depth."

Emerson has been a diving instructor for 30 years and owns

and operates BCXtreme sports in Danville, Va.

BCXtreme sells scuba equipment, plans trips and organizes classes.

Students spoke highly of their instructor and said they have learned a lot so far.

"It's been an awesome experience that I'll never forget," Associate Director of Facilities and Aquatics Joshua Goodman said.

The classes are part of the Ultimate LU initiative, which provides students with recreation opportunities outside of the classroom.

Emerson spoke of his passion for scuba diving and his reasoning behind teaching the course, noting some practical benefits of scuba diving.

"When you go fishing, you get the fish that bites," Emerson said. "With (scuba diving), you can pick the fish you want."

Emerson hopes to have the class approved and accredited for this fall.

All registered students are required to provide their own diving mask, fins, snorkel and boots during each session. Equipment can be

purchased through Emerson for a discounted price.

Other necessary equipment includes oxygen tanks, regulators, wetsuits, gloves and weights, which are provided, according to the Liberty Journal.

A doctor must approve students before they can participate.

Students who succeed in passing the course and examination will receive a PADI Certification.

The course costs a total of \$450. A \$50 deposit is required to sign up for the class.

For more information or to register for the course, inquire at the front desk at the LaHaye Student Center, or contact Josh Goodman at [jfgoodman@liberty.edu](mailto:jfgoodman@liberty.edu) or call (434) 592-3281.

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## LIBERTYCHAMPION

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

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

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## GET YOUR RED ON

Come to the Vines Center to support the Flames Basketball team as they battle it out with HighPoint University and University of North Carolina at Asheville.

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## Moot Court team posts strong showing in California tournament, ranked 9th in nation

Pre-law students at Liberty should take every effort to see or take part in an appellate argument before they go to law school because it's an activity that every law student ... must endure.

—Professor Grant Rost

Caroline Harrison  
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty's undergraduate Moot Court Team is ranked ninth in the nation after competing in the 2009 National American Collegiate Moot Court Association (NACMCA) Tournament in Los Angeles, Calif. Jan. 15, according to the Liberty Web site.

This year four students, Grace Woodson, Mark Hicks, Chandler Smith and Nicole Mazzarella competed as two teams in both the regional and national tournaments.

Mazzarella and her partner Smith were awarded second place in the petitioner brief writing contest at the NACMCA tournament. Woodson won second place speaker, and her partner Hicks won third place speaker at the Southeastern Regional Tournament in Savannah, Ga.

This is the second year that the Moot Court team has competed in the national tournament, according to the Moot Court Web page.

The team is being coached by Professor Grant Rost, and his assistant Brandon Osterbind. This is Rost's third year coaching. Osterbind is a former member of Liberty's Moot Court team, and a graduate of Liberty's School of Law. The Moot Court Team was founded by Michelle Crawford Rickert in 2005, who coached the team during its first year.

Since its creation, 20 students have competed in the program. There are currently eight students on the team.

Several of Liberty's Moot Court students went on to law school at Liberty and other schools including Ohio State and Washington and Lee.

Victoria Little, a first year Liberty Law student, said that the Moot Court team gave her "a glimpse of what the real life pressures of the courtroom are like."

Moot Court allows students to gain invaluable experience using principles of appellate argument and interpreting the law.

"It (The Moot Court Team) provides you with the chance to do exactly what law students are doing, which is researching court cases to be able to analyze them, sift through them and pull out relevant rules of law, and explain how they



**AWARD TIME** – Liberty Moot Court members display one of the awards they earned at the 2009 National American Collegiate Moot Court Association Tournament.

are analogous or distinguishable from other cases," senior Nicole Mazzarella said.

Most law schools require all their students to be "in a moot" in order to graduate, according to Woodson. Joining a Moot Court team in undergraduate years provides students interested in pursuing law with a competitive edge.

In undergraduate Moot Court students are divided into teams of two people. During competition, each teammate is given an issue to argue before a panel of judges. They are given 10 minutes each to make their arguments while the judges listen and "pepper them with questions testing their knowledge of the law and the strength of their positions," according to Rost.

The School of Government offers an appellate advocacy class, GOVT 478, which is

recommended for students who are considering joining the Moot Court team, according to the Moot Court Web page.

Aside from preparing students for Moot Court, GOVT 478 is the class from which Coach Rost "recruits talent."

"The Moot Court team welcomes students of every major, but is highly recommended to students interested in studying law."

"Pre-law students at Liberty should take every effort to see or take part in an appellate argument before they go to law school because it's an activity that every law student ... must endure," Rost said. "Knowing what to expect can go a long way."

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## Debate team preps for top spot

Amanda Forth  
NEWS/LIFE REPORTER

to continue growth in this area," he said.

The Liberty debate team once again finds itself in great position to take the national championship in all divisions of the intercollegiate debate's governing organizations. The debate team just claimed victories at Mary Washington and George Mason Universities. The season is now 60 percent over with, and currently the debate team sits at the top of the American Debate Association (ADA) and the National Debate Association (NDA).

The debate team traveled to James Madison University where Stephanie Dillard received individual honors as top speaker, Ross Garrett received second speaker and Ben Hagwood won 10th speaker.

They then traveled to the University of Mary Washington where the varsity debate team earned all three top seeds in the elimination rounds. Both Ryan Bass and Jackie Poapst finished with a 6-0 record, and Dillard and Garret finished 5-1 along with the team of Lincoln Garrett and Joshua Turnage. Dillard and Garrett won the tournament with a 2-1 decision defeating William Mary. Garrett claimed top speaker and Dillard received 2nd.

Finishing up the rounds of tournaments landed the team at George Mason, where the team completed their travels with a 3-0 decision win over Clarion University. Joshua Armstrong was named top speaker, Maria Eller received second and Beau and Troxclair came in third.

But not everyone was completely satisfied by the team's current rankings. Debate Captain Garrett feels the team still has unreached potential.

"I think our debate team still has accomplishments at the varsity level it could achieve...I hope this season will put the team on a track

The debate team argues only one topic per season. This year's topic is whether or not the federal government should participate in agricultural subsidies. The debate team spends hours of research each week on the topic in addition to practicing their debates.

Director of Debate Michael Hall said that the average time spent on research per week was approximately 20 hours, with the varsity teams spending even more than that in preparation.

"The amount of work that a debate student puts into research and working on their debate is equivalent to the research required for a PhD thesis," Hall said.

The debate team works just like any other intercollegiate sport, including the benefit of scholarships. One of the differences with debate is the academic credit that students receive while participating on the team. Each team member receives one credit hour per semester and is enrolled in a COMS 395 class that helps them acquire tools that are essential to debate and life.

"(Debate) pushes students to think analytically and fosters intellectual development," Amy Boyd said. "These two skills are necessary to challenge the current assumptions that pervade our modern culture."

A common misconception about the debate team is that it's strictly for law students. Hall explained that the tools that a student acquires while learning how to debate and do the research are invaluable resources that anyone can use after graduation.

"The debate team plays a role in your education, no matter what your major is," Hall said.

Contact Amanda Forth at  
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**WINNING SMILES**– The Liberty Moot Court team impressed many in Los Angeles.

If you're a government, history or communication student, join us for a reception at 4 p.m. on Jan. 28th at the Helms School of Government Slab 101 to learn more about the Sorensen Institute's College Leaders Program.

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The program will be held May 30 – June 27, 2009.

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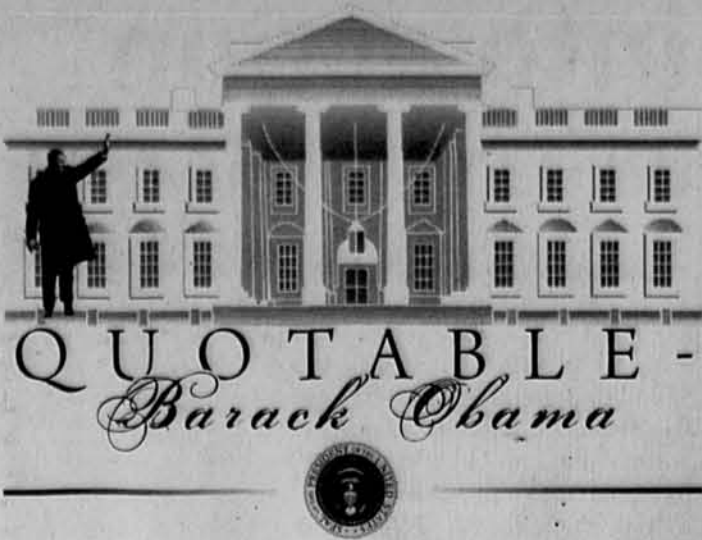


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PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA DELIVERED HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON JANUARY 20. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS.

My fellow citizens: I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors.



We are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age.



Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real, they are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met.



Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America.



Our founding fathers faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience's sake.



America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words; with hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come; let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.



## Shutting the 'Revolving Door'

Obama issues executive order, calling for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay facility

**Mattison Brooks**  
OPINION REPORTER

It should probably not surprise anyone that President Barack Obama gave some executive orders during his first days as president. It is not extraordinary, and many presidents have done it. While Obama did not ban anything related to domestic affairs, his first orders as the newly inaugurated President of the United States revamped this country's stance on terrorism.

Obama has banned the use of torture in terrorist interrogations, in addition to having ordered the closure of the Guantanamo Bay prison facilities and demanding an overhaul of the handbook for all military personnel to reflect those two previously mentioned decisions.

It is no surprise that Obama addressed these points in his first White House briefing hours after he wrote them into effect. There would be questions, many of them relating to Guantanamo's closure, which is a significant turning point in American foreign policy.

However, despite skepticism from commentators, outlets and think-tanks around

Washington D.C., Press Secretary Robert Gibbs highlighted and pointed out in the conference that the new president believed that making these changes will improve American and western security abroad. I could not agree more.

Whatever your views of Obama may be, he has indeed taken the moral high ground by banning torture and closing "Gitmo." Not only did those two specific policies violate international law — which in fairness is very biased against Western nations — but it also violated American constitutional law. Habeus Corpus and equality of man are the paramount cornerstones America was founded upon. Closing what became known in the political community as "the revolving door" is probably one of the best things to happen to American foreign policy in almost a decade.

By doing this, Obama has won favor with those who viewed the American military as villainous for indefinitely imprisoning these men and not granting them habeus corpus. He has taken the blemish off of the face of American foreign policy by directly addressing the issue of torture with a firm "no" rather than wishy-washy, question-dodging answers. He has taken away the irony of America claiming to be a beacon of democracy, only to suspend it when it so chooses, for whom it chooses.

Lastly, and what I feel is most important, he has also tried to extend goodwill to the international community.

No doubt many will view this as an anti-

Republican maneuver and nothing more than perceived political pandering by the GOP. However, I have never felt that the law and justice were exclusively Republican or Democratic. Choosing to obey the law is hardly a political power play; it is just good leadership, and that transcends party boundaries.

The individuals who have been held at Guantanamo are men that have been captured while aiding, fighting with or assisting terrorists or the act of terrorism. These are men who have performed inhumane acts of destruction and evil. But they are still human nonetheless. As such, they are entitled to the rights granted by the United Nations charter of Human Rights and of the nation that captures them, even if captured westerners or soldiers would not be extended that very same courtesy.

Being the light on the hill and the "last great hope of humanity" means never losing our humanity. They may be monsters, but we do not need to become monsters ourselves to beat them. The America I know, knows better. And now we have the chance to do better. So let us keep the revolving door shut and put that dark chapter behind us.

Contact Mattison Brooks at  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — A crowd amasses around the Washington Monument on inauguration day.

## CHANGE-LAND, the happiest place on Earth

**Mattison Brooks**  
OPINION REPORTER

There are literally millions of people crowding narrow streets, with overpriced food and souvenirs being sold. An occasional oversized mascot appears here or there, while people stand in line for hours to experience something that only lasts a few minutes.

No, this is not Disneyland or Six Flags. This is "Obama-fest" or "Change-land," as some media outlets were calling it. A four-day event that featured countless balls and galas, a historic inauguration, men on stilts dressed as Uncle Sam, rides, a chance to appear on television and a massive free concert featuring many of the biggest names in music and, oh yes, a shockingly large amount of movie stars.

But the festivities did not stop there — there was something for everyone. For many African-Americans, who grew up in the shadow of segregation, there was the chance to see the first black president.

For the conservatives in the crowd, Rick Warren made an appearance before the inauguration, giving an excellent invocation. A gay priest spoke at the opening of the concert days before the inauguration, challenging the institution of conservative religion for its "ignorance." And for the feminists, a female reverend spoke at the luncheon the day after the inauguration, along with one speaker of many faiths and denominations.

Truly, it was all things for all people. And from the footage on CNN, it seemed like everyone was happy. Or were they?

What no one took into consideration was that having all these various groups sharing the same limelight would beg serious questions. Questions like, what does Obama really believe? What does Obama say on this issue, or that issue? After all, with such a broad spectrum of belief systems and ideals, it is bound to be one of them.

However, that was not the answer people accepted. What they looked at instead was

that their belief system alone was not the exclusive belief of the inauguration. And so the happiest place on Earth became the grumpiest place on Earth in mere seconds.

The liberals, who spent months schmoozing with Obama, were forced to listen to Rick Warren speak just moments before their golden boy became the leader of the free world.

The conservatives, who lost the election, watched the country "lose its soul" as a gay priest was given a microphone and three minutes to pray at a massive rock concert.

The only people who did not notice were the ones catching the real theme of the entire celebration: "we are one." With the amount of people who showed up, it is not hard to believe that people want to get along and find some common ground.

More and more, Obama has shown himself to be more interested in partisan politics than trying to please everyone. Did he do that with his inauguration? Perhaps. But extending the olive branch in several directions can be interpreted several



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tourists mill about beneath the watchful gaze of the Capitol Building during inauguration week.

different ways.

Maybe Obama is serious about wanting to change the country for the better. Maybe he is just another suit trying to win the world's largest popularity contest. All

we can do is watch his actions and pray for our president.

Contact Mattison Brooks at  
embrooks@liberty.edu.



# Liberty gymnasts swing into action

Amanda Thomason  
NEWS REPORTER

Flipping, jumping and tumbling are a few of the daily pastimes of Liberty's new gymnastics team. The team has formed on campus under the direction of Lori Darter of the Lynchburg Academy of Gymnastics and Tumbling.

Practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with 25 to 30 students already committed to the team. The team is working on building its skills and getting in shape this semester with the intention of moving toward fulfilling NCAA requirements. The members are planning to compete as soon as next semester, according to Darter. They are doing registration for this year's team, but next year Darter will decide whether to hold tryouts or continue with open registration.

Junior Amanda Grimes is looking forward to learning new techniques and being challenged to grow in her abilities as a gymnast. The team has an overall positive attitude with a strong bond and ability to encourage each other, Grimes said.

Beginner, intermediate and advanced groups have been formed to accommodate all team members. Students from various backgrounds have joined the team, ranging from beginners to the more experienced, like freshman Steven Lucia, who has been doing gymnastics for 16 years and is ready to compete.

The gymnastics team will consist of students working on skills and competing in all four events including floor, uneven bars, balance beam and the vault. With a diverse group of people on the team, the students enjoy all aspects of the sport. Some students on the team have been gymnasts in previous years and are eager to get back to practice, according to Darter.

"I miss the thrill that comes with flipping on a four-inch beam or the adrenaline rush when I tumble on the floor and defy gravity," freshman Megan Muller, gymnast of 13 years, said. "Most of all, I miss the hard work and dedication it takes to be a gymnast. Not only the physical toughness, but the mental toughness, because there are so many fears one must overcome every day in the gym."

Students have the chance to break from classes and clear their minds while working on their techniques. It is a good place to relieve stress, stay in shape and pursue and accomplish their goals, according to Lucia.

"The best part about gymnastics is about learning to control your body. It takes strength, persistence, flexibility and great coaching to go a long way in



**AERIAL MOTION** - Liberty gymnasts are planning to compete as soon as Fall 2009.

gymnastics," junior Sara Hice said.

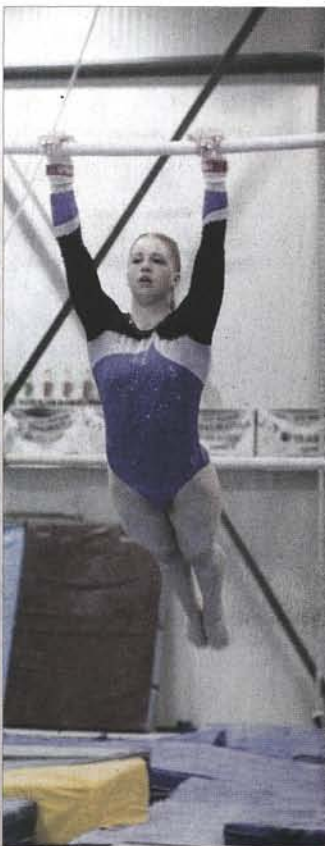
This new club team was started after Liberty students already practicing at the gym promoted interest. Darter expressed her desire, along with the students, to start the club team. Once the announcement was put out on the splash page, a significant amount of students responded and Liberty knew it would be able to form a team, according to Assistant Director of Club Sports Tatiana Gomez.

When Darter read about the new Ultimate LE initiative that Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. promoted, she realized this was the perfect time to promote a club team. Students were already coming to her gym for tumbling classes, and a club team seemed to be more beneficial since

many students do not have the funding to pay normal gym rates.

"I am volunteering to coach this team because I love the sport and think it is good for working the body all the way through in every muscle," Darter said. "It is challenging, and I thought it would be a good opportunity for Liberty students."

Contact Amanda Thomason at  
athomason@liberty.edu.



**SWING LOW** - Students compete in four events, including the uneven bars, balance beam, floor and the vault.

## INVESTMENT FOR CHAMPIONS



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**MEN'S BASKETBALL THRILLER • B2** Seth Curry scores 30 points in double overtime loss  
**SUPER BOWL BREAKDOWN • B3** Asst. Sports Editor Thomas Lordeau sets up next weekend's NFL action  
**TENNIS SNAGS FIRST WIN • B4** Men's tennis sweeps Bluefield with dominating force

## RED HOT REMINDER

1/27 MEN'S BBALL VS. HIGH POINT 7 P.M.  
 1/31 WOMEN'S BBALL VS. HIGH POINT 2 P.M.  
 1/31 MEN'S BBALL VS. UNC ASHEVILLE 7 P.M.

# CHAMPIONSPORTS



## MORIAH FRAZEE SCORES 1000th

### Lady Flames turned the sword on the Buccaneers, 76-51

Jordan LoSasso  
SPORTS REPORTER

Liberty's Moriah Frazee scored her 1,000th career point in Liberty's dominating 76-51 win against conference opponent Charleston Southern in the Vines Center on Saturday to remain undefeated in conference play.

The senior's 1,000th point came after making a pair of free throws with 14:56 left in the second half accompanied by cheers from the crowd acknowledging the feat. Frazee is now the 12th Lady Flame to score 1,000 career points.

"It is a great accomplishment," Moriah Frazee said.

As a basketball player, Moriah has tremendous skills, and I'm very pleased she reached this milestone. She has worked very hard and she deserves it," Coach Carey Green said.

Liberty captured the lead with a Rachel Hammond layup off the opening tip. Hammond finished the game with 16 points and torched the Lady Bucs shooting 6-7 from the field and an impressive 4-5 from beyond the arc.

Senior Megan Frazee sparked the Lady Flames early with 10 points, four rebounds and a steal that led to a fast-break layup in the first six minutes of the half. Frazee finished the game with team highs 20 points and nine rebounds.

Liberty's early run gave the Lady Flames a 24-8 lead with 9:50 to go in the first half. Kylee Beecher capped off the run with a jumper in the paint.

Charleston Southern climbed within 10 points with 5:28 left in the first half, making it a contest

until senior Rebecca Lightfoot hit a 3-pointer off of a turnover.

Turnovers were a large part of the game for the Lady Flames. Liberty only turned the ball over 12 times, after averaging over 20 per game, and scored 24 points off 15 Lady Bucs turnovers.

"We have struggled with turnovers, so it's good to see us get more disciplined," Megan Frazee said.

Liberty's defense performed well, forcing 15 turnovers and holding Charleston Southern to 33 percent shooting. Big South leading scorer Pam Tolbert was kept in check, scoring only 12 points. The defense was anchored by redshirt



Liberty continued to melt down the Lady Bucs in the second half. The Lady Flames increased the lead to 25 points with 13:27 left in the half with a layup by Megan Frazee to make the score 57-32.

Freshman Danika Dale led the Lady Flames in the second half coming off the bench. Her six rebounds, two steals and two assists maintained Liberty's lead.

At the start of the second half the Bulldogs put together two small spurts, trimming the lead to 50-30. The Lady Flames quickly answered with a five minute 9-0 run that bolstered their lead to 29 points with 10:27 left in regulation.

Liberty took their biggest lead of the night with 1:31 to play when Rachel McLeod hit a three to push the advantage to 31 points.

The game ended with a 75-48 victory for the Lady Flames. Megan Frazee led all players with 22 points and 14 rebounds. It was her 4th double-double of the season. Avery Warley scored 10 points, added eight rebounds and blocked two shots.

The Lady Flames will continue their four game homestand against Coastal Carolina Monday at 7 p.m. in the Vines Center.

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## Liberty Track & Field jumpstarts 2009 season

Jonathan Thompson  
SPORTS REPORTER

After seven weeks of inactivity, Liberty officially opened the 2009 track and field season, hosting 22 schools at the Tolma Indoor Track over the weekend.

Liberty started the first day of competition by placing three in the top ten in ladies pentathlon; redshirt senior Marie Williams (2nd) and sophomores Krystle Matthews (5th) and Jen Healey (7th).

Senior Daniel Newell ended the first day of the men's heptathlon with a sizeable 406-point lead after winning three of the first four events.

Newell opened up the second day of competition with a third place and two second place finishes in the final three events to finish the heptathlon with 5,346 points, setting a personal record and obtaining a provisional qualifying NCAA score.

"I'm glad I got the national provisional mark. That was my main goal coming

in," Newell said. "God really blessed me by letting me clear some hurdles and hit some jumpin' pole vault, and I just feel so blessed to be here."

Other Liberty standouts on the second day of action were senior Andrea Beckles, who placed second in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash, and senior Ashley Teer who took first in the 800-meter.

Freshman Olivia Charnuski placed first in the 60 meter hurdles, followed closely by redshirt freshman Rachel Housheknicht who took third. Housheknicht also placed seventh in the pole vault, marking the highest placement on the ladies' side of the field events.

Liberty's men were a different story. The Flames swept the high jump with a trio of nearly 7-foot jumps by freshman Anthony Bryant, senior Matt Parker and sophomore Clarence Powell, while sophomore Kolby Shepherd claimed victory on the pole vault.

Bryant emerged again as part of a strong showing in the triple jump for the Flames, claiming second behind sophomore

Clarence Powell and ahead of teammate Chris Johnson, who took fifth.

Freshman John Talbert placed third in the weight throw and landed fifth in the shot put, and was joined in the top five by senior Andrew Bartles, who placed second.

On the track side, Liberty's men had almost as much success. Senior Phil Leinenweber led the way with a victory in the 500 meter and a runner-up finish in the 200 meter.

Redshirt sophomore Sam Chelanga followed up a dominating fall season on the cross country circuit with a blowout in the 3,000 meter, beating his nearest competitor by over 25 seconds. Sophomore Mark Hopely finished almost a full minute behind Chelanga in eighth place.



See LIBERTY TRACK AND FIELD on B4

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS** - Matt Parker placed second in the high jump while Anthony Bryant and Clarence Powell, also from Liberty, placed first and third, respectively.



# Flames drop heartbreaker to Radford in double overtime

**Overtime  
collapse haunts  
Liberty in  
Big South  
Conference loss**

**Chris McNair and  
Jake Petersen**  
SPORTS REPORTER AND  
SPORTS EDITOR

A crowd of 7,392 fans filled the Vines Center on Saturday night as the Liberty Flames took on the Radford University Highlanders. What they witnessed was a team that fought hard throughout regulation and forced two overtimes, but eventually fell short as Radford pulled away and won 94-82.

Play was even most of the night. Radford held a slim 35-30 lead after the first half, but the Flames, aided by the hot shooting of senior Anthony Smith and freshman Seth Curry, stormed back in the second half.

A steal and breakaway dunk by Smith with 6:03 left in the game put the Flames up six, but Radford clawed its way back to within one with back-to-back baskets from Kenny Thomas and Joey Lynch-Flohr with 4:53 to go.

The Flames had many big performances, most notably Curry, who led all scorers with 30 points. Smith also played well, netting a double-double for the ninth time in his career with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Junior Kyle Ohman notched 18 points and six rebounds in the loss.

Both of their performances in the second half were crucial in sending the game into overtime. Smith, who could not find his stroke from three-point land in the first half (0-for-3), turned it on in the second half with four three-point field goals, extending the Flames lead down the stretch.

"Just confidence in my shot and repetition... I practice everyday,"

Smith said regarding his second half success Saturday night. "If I wasn't hitting in the first half I knew they would fall eventually."

Curry nailed an open jumper with 2:29 left in the game to put the Flames up three. Radford responded by using its height to its advantage, tipping in two more buckets to tie the game at 70.

However, with 11 seconds left, Brolin Floyd drove baseline and seemed to have been fouled by Joey Lynch-Flohr, which would have sent the freshman to the charity stripe with a chance to win the game.

However, the official ruled Floyd had stepped out of bounds prior to the foul, giving the ball right back to the Highlanders. Replays would later show Floyd actually did not step out of bounds, prompting many Flames faithful to shower the referees with a serenade of boos.

Radford nearly won the game in the final 10 seconds, but Kenny Thomas failed to tip home two attempts from two feet away, sending the game into the first overtime period.

When asked what his thoughts were on the officiating, Head Coach Ritchie McKay said, "You don't want to know my answer... next question."

Following the first overtime period, the Highlanders were able to pull away in the second overtime, outscoring a depleted and tired Flames rotation 16-4.

A balanced Radford scoring effort was led by 6'11" Artsiom Parakhouski, who led all Radford scorers with 22 points, 16 rebounds and six blocked shots while playing all 50 minutes. Thomas finished with 21 points and point guard Amir Johnson contributed 16 points. Lynch-Flohr scored 13 points and Chris McEachin recorded 10.

Led by the performance of Parakhouski and Lynch-Flohr, Radford dominated the Flames in the paint all night, scoring 48 points to Liberty's 22.

"We've got what we think

are the two best big men in the league, and we try to make that a focus every game to establish the inside," Radford Head Coach Mark Greenberg said.

Radford handed Liberty its seventh loss of the season, bringing the Flames' record to 14-7, while Radford improves to 10-10 and 7-2 in the Big South Conference.

The Flames look to bounce back on Tuesday night as they take on High Point inside the Vines Center at 7 p.m.

Prior to the loss, the Flames had won their four previous games, highlighted by last Tuesday's come-from-behind 61-56 victory over High Point. In the last 1:43, the Flames scored 14 straight points en route to their 14th win of the season.

Smith was clutch in the final minute and a half, accounting for the first eight points of the stretch, including 5-of-5 from the free-throw line. His three-pointer with 34 seconds left brought Liberty to within one at 56-55. On the next possession, the senior stole the ball from David Singleton, and Ohman put the Flames up by two with a three-pointer from the wing with 17 ticks on the clock remaining.

Smith collected another steal, his fourth of the night, on the next possession and a Curry lay-up sealed the deal for Liberty. Smith finished with 24 points, 19 of which came in the second half, while Ohman sank five three-pointers and collected 19 points and seven rebounds.

The Flames' homestand continues this Saturday at 7 p.m. as they face off against UNC-Asheville.

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**JAM SESSION** – Anthony Smith rises up and dunks on a breakaway during Saturday night's double overtime loss to Radford inside the Vines Center. Smith finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds, his ninth career double-double.



**BLOCK PARTY** – Radford's Artsiom Parakhouski rejects a layup off the fingertips of Anthony Smith for one of his game-leading six blocks. Parakhouski finished the game with 22 points and 16 rebounds.

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## Celebrate XLIII

Student Activities is inviting everyone to the Super Bowl party aka the **REALLY, REALLY BIG GAME PARTY XLIII** taking place in the **Tilley Student Center** on **Super Sunday, Feb. 1 starting at 6 p.m.** There will be food of all kinds, games and prizes, and of course the really, really big game.



# XLIII

## Super Bowl Commentary



**Thomas Lourdeau**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The phrase "Any given Sunday" is easily one of the most overused clichés in all of sports, but recent events inside the National Football League (NFL) have made it as true as ever.

The 2008 playoffs showed just how fickle the NFL can be from one season to the next. The New England Patriots, who have been the decade's most dominant

team, missed the playoffs despite posting an 11-5 record. Meanwhile, the Miami Dolphins completed an incredible turnaround in 2008 as they rebounded from a 1-15 record in 2007 to make the playoffs.

Meanwhile, in the National Football Conference (NFC), the Giants followed up last year's Super Bowl run by securing the no. 1 seed in the NFC, and then fell prey to the Eagles at home, spelling doom for yet another one seed in the NFL.

However, we have barely touched the tip of the

iceberg on this season's playoff surprises until we talk about the Arizona Cardinals. Not only have they become the first 9-7 team since the 1979 Rams to reach the Super Bowl, but they are appearing in their first championship game of any kind since 1947 when they won the NFL Championship as the Chicago Cardinals. They have since called two cities home in St. Louis and Phoenix, Ariz. and have made the playoffs just a handful of times in that span.

Never before in Super Bowl history has there been such a sharp contrast between the team's historical records. The Steelers are currently tied with the Dallas Cowboys for most Super Bowl victories with five, their most recent coming in Super Bowl XL.

History aside, the game itself boasts many intriguing storylines that are sure to develop further even before the game's opening kickoff. It should be an interesting chess match between Head Coaches Mike Tomlin and Ken Whisenhunt, as the two are familiar with each other from their time in Pittsburgh. Whisenhunt was the tight ends coach beginning in 2001 before becoming the Offensive Coordinator in 2004. He also interviewed for the head coaching position two seasons ago that was eventually given to current coach Mike Tomlin.

The stark contrast extends to play on the field as well. While the Steelers have been traditionally known as a smash mouth, in-your-face defensive squad dating back to the "Steel Curtain" teams of the 1970s, the Cardinals boast a potent offensive attack featuring arguably the game's top wide receiver in Larry Fitzgerald.

With one game left to play, Fitzgerald has already eclipsed Hall of Fame wide out Jerry Rice for the

most playoff receiving yards with 413, while his five touchdowns is also tops in 2008.

That said, the Cardinals have yet to face a defensive squad like the Steelers this season. Pro Bowl safety Troy Polamalu and 2008 Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison are just two of many powerhouses on the Pittsburgh defense. Despite Fitzgerald's success, the Steelers figure to force Arizona into a one-dimensional passing attack thanks to their second-ranked run defense which allowed just 80.2 ypg in 2008.

Oh, and in case you're wondering, they weren't too bad against the pass either, allowing an NFL-best 156 yards-per-game through the air.

Both quarterbacks have been on football's biggest stage before. Kurt Warner appeared in two Super Bowls in the 1999 and 2000 seasons with one victory, while Ben Roethlisberger has a lone appearance and victory as a second year quarterback in 2005.

If the Cardinals are looking for hope in facing the AFC's top-ranked representative in this year's postseason, they need only look to the 2005 Steelers, who won three straight road games before defeating the Seattle Seahawks, who entered Super Bowl XL with a league-best 14-2 record.

While sports fans in search of a repeat performance from last season, when New York Giants receiver David Tyree made what has been called the greatest catch in NFL history, might be a bit disappointed, this game promises to be nothing short of entertaining as we see firsthand what happens when two polar opposites meet for American sports' biggest sporting event.

Contact Thomas Lourdeau at  
tlourdeau@liberty.edu.

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*Admission is free for LU students with their I.D.*

**WOMEN'S**

January 31 at 2 p.m. vs. HighPoint



## LIBERTY TRACK & FIELD

Continued from B1

Parker was able to notch another victory for the Flames in the 60-meter hurdles. Freshman Spencer Jackson finished fifth in the 800-meter, followed by teammate Jordan Bright.

The real story of the track meet, however, came from an unlikely source — the Flames 4x400 relay team and freshman James Hatch. Liberty's heat against Winston Salem State and Campbell University started out ordinary enough, but for Hatch the race would prove to be quite extraordinary.

Hatch was running the second leg of the relay for the Flames, who had initially fallen behind Winston Salem State. Unexpectedly, a spectator wandered onto the track and right into the path of Winston Salem's runner.

The two collided, and both were thrown to the ground while trying to avoid the collision, with the runner dropping his baton to the ground in the process.

Hatch immediately turned around and made his way to the Winston Salem State runner, retrieved his baton and encouraged

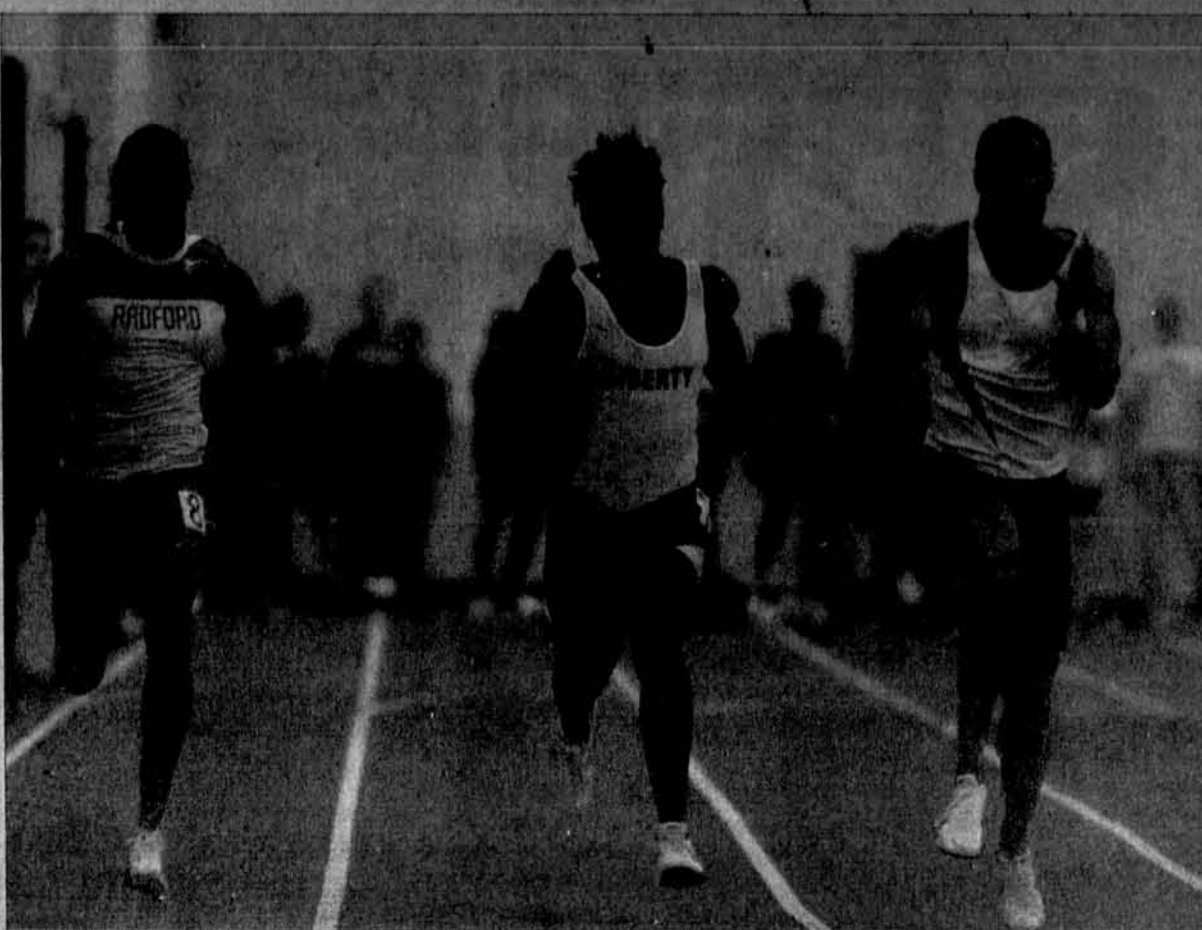
the young man to get back up and finish the race. Hatch did not begin running again until his counterpart was up and ready.

In a move that ultimately cost the Flames the chance for a victory in their heat, Hatch exemplified the goal of Liberty athletics and of Liberty University, not only to compete in athletics, but to use that as a platform for sharing faith with others.

"I think he was trying to get the sportsmanship award," said Coach Tolsma. "He could have just kept on going."

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Photos by David Poore



**CHARGING FORWARD** – Liberty sprinter Dominic Bolden shows his athletic versatility, starting in the gridiron and on the track.



**AHEAD OF THE PACK** – Matt Parker placed first in the 60-meter hurdles.



**GOING THE DISTANCE** – Alyssa Pegues placed fifth in the women's triple jump.



**MAJOR HURDLE** – A Liberty hurdler narrowly clears the bar in a preliminary heat of the 60-meter hurdles.



**OVER AND ABOVE** – Senior Emily Funderburke finished in a four-way tie for 12th place in a strong field of 22 athletes at the Liberty Open over the weekend.

# Depleted Flames fall to Bison

BJ Williams  
SPORTS REPORTER

Tim Harner picked up his 17th win on the year, but Bucknell won six consecutive wrestling matches and defeated the Flames 37-12 in Bucknell, Pa. on Saturday afternoon. With the win, Bucknell improved to 8-6 in dual matches on the season while the Flames suffered their third loss in four dual matches to fall to 5-7-1 on the season.

Freshman Joe Pantaleo was out with an injury for the fifth straight match, and Liberty once again fell into an early hole. The Bison added to their advantage as junior David Marble continued his personal domination of the Flames picking up his third consecutive win, this time with a pin of freshman Cameron Hurd.

wrestling in place of injured senior Christian Smith. The lone bright spot of the night was the continued excellent wrestling by Tim Harner as the senior picked up his 10th win in 12 matches at 141 pounds and his team high 6th win by pinfall since dropping down from 149 pounds.

"I am able to do more things, because at 149, I was up against people who were very similar to me in height," Harner said when asked about his transition to a lighter weight class.

Lehigh transfer Frankie Gayeski stepped up at 149 and had a chance to bring the Flames within striking distance, but a late stalling call tied his match and Gayeski would go on to lose a one-point decision to Kevin LeValley, which set off a six match stampede by the Bison, including two wins by technical fall at 165

and 174 pounds respectively and a win by fall at 184 pounds. The match ended with junior Patrick Walker picking up the win by forfeit at heavyweight to provide the final margin.

The Flames entered the contest battling a variety of injuries, and they were without the services of two other starters, in addition to Pantaleo.

"We didn't do a very good job today and were simply outwrestled," Head Coach Jesse Castro said.

Harner did later comment about the fact that so many underclassmen have been pressed into service for the team this year.

"It's a night and day difference between high school and college wrestling. The speed and strength required even at a low level of Division I wrestling is significantly different than what a lot of these guys experienced, but

this will only help to make them better as the season goes along," Harner said.

The Flames now take a 10-day break, before returning to the mats Feb. 3 for two dual matches, first in Buies Creek, N.C. against Campbell University at 1 p.m. before heading to Greensboro, N.C. to face the Spartans of UNC Greensboro at 7 p.m. Last year Liberty defeated the Spartans 21-15, while the dual with Campbell will be a first since the 1990-91 season when the Flames picked up a 38-7 victory.

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# TENNIS DEFEATS BLUEFIELD FOR FIRST WIN OF YEAR

Daniel Heffner  
SPORTS REPORTER

Liberty tennis opened up its regular season with a 7-0 win against the Bluefield State Rams on Saturday night.

Bluefield State College, an NAIA team located in Bluefield, W.Va., took on a Flames team that was coming off of a 7-0 loss to Old Dominion last Saturday and searching for its first victory of the season. The match marked the first ever meeting between the Flames and the Rams.

"We didn't really know a lot about Bluefield going into the match. (Our mentality was) we've just got to go out and play our own game, take care of business and beat the teams that we need to beat," junior

Chad Simpson said.

"This plan seemed to work well, as the top players from Bluefield were handled quite easily by the Liberty players. Playing in front of a home crowd also proved to be an advantage for the Flames, as many students made the journey to the Sports Racket, an indoor tennis complex located just off 501 in Lynchburg.

"It was great to play in front of our home crowd, it feels good seeing Liberty students come out and support their tennis team," Simpson said.

Kicking off the doubles action of the match were juniors Clay Cypert and freshman Giancarlo Lemmi, who started out by winning 8-3 over Andy Sarver and Marcin Majchreax. Simpson and junior

Juan Reyes followed by taking out Susan Zivcovik and Derick Sizemore by a score of 8-1. The tandem of junior Louis Steyn and Gregorio Machado easily captured a No. 3 double victory by defeating Howard Coston and Justin Wood, 8-0.

In singles play, Cypert, a transfer from Tyler Junior College, and team captain

Louis Steyn each led the way with victories. Cypert posted a 6-2, 6-1 win over Sarver, while Steyn defeated Majchreax 6-1, 6-0.

Lemmi, Machado, Reyes and newcomer Octavio Costa each picked up victories for the Flames in the rest of the singles play.

"I think it is good to play these teams to put into practice what we've been learning," Steyn said. "I am happy about how everybody played. Even though it wasn't a very hard match, we had the opportunity to work on executing the game plan."

"Our long term goal that we set for ourselves in our team meeting before the season is to win the Big South title," Simpson said. "Radford is favored to win the Big

South, but all the other teams are fairly even. If everything goes right and we practice the way we've been practicing, we will see good results."

The Flames will travel to play George Mason next Saturday, and then return home to face Lynchburg College on Feb. 7 at the Sports Racket.

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# iThoughts on the iPod

## Is the revolutionary mp3 player all it's cracked up to be?

**Christopher Scott**  
OPINION REPORTER

Among college student, the consensus is that for mp3 players—iPod is the one and only. After all, Apple (the creator of all things good) gives us everything we think we might need to entertain ourselves in life. Apple designers did the best they could to implement beauty, simplicity and usability into the many iPod models we have on the market today.

But is iPod the unquestionable leader in the world of portable mp3 players? Are there products out there that can match up in quality to what the iPod has in overbearing popularity? Let's take a look at some of the major, over-looked flaws the iPod has that might bring you to a startling conclusion. But, be wary fellow iPod users, because what you read may disturb you.

First off, let's nail an obvious design flaw found in all iPods—the lack of an

We love the fact that there are some things in our lives that can simply be switched

down a separately labeled button for several seconds to turn things off. That is a big turn-off.

A second major issue with most models of the iPod is the classic screen-freeze problem. Many iPod consumers have found themselves in the dilemma of having their iPods transform into a frozen-vegetative state. It is not that they cannot play music, they simply stop trying. This can sometimes happen spontaneously without ever dropping or damaging your iPod. No one likes frozen veggies, and that's a fact.

The most inarguably prominent issue with all iPods is the appalling fact that consumers can only have their pods synced with one computer at a time. Unfortunately, this reality is not often realized until the unsuspecting iPod owner gets a new computer or wants to put his iTunes library on a separate computer. Having to go through

this hassle after paying hundreds of dollars for the device is not just unnecessary, it's indecent.

Regardless of whether you are an iPod fan or not, there is no denying the blatant disadvantages of using an iPod. Music lovers should consider other products like the Microsoft Zune, or the Creative Zen, before jumping to purchase what everyone else already has. Conventional preferences are proven wrong from time to time, and let's face it—iPods are taking over the world. Let's do our job as Americans and attempt to not conform in this petty but extremely relevant issue in our lives.

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ALEX TOWERS



ON/OFF button. Since the creation of the very first electronic devices, mankind has been intuitive enough to understand the basic concept of an ON/OFF button.

"ON" and "OFF" instantly. We love it, and we wish there were more things in life that had this feature. We do not want this taken away, and we certainly do not want to hold

## Life in LYNCHBURG

### Jazz Street Grill

Jazz Street Grill, now in its new location at 3009 Old Forest Road, is not just a great place to eat, but Tuesday through Saturday, live music is featured as well. Just because "jazz" is in the title does not mean you have to love jazz to like this grill. Hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m.-midnight, Sunday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Contact the Jazz Street Grill at 434-385-0100.

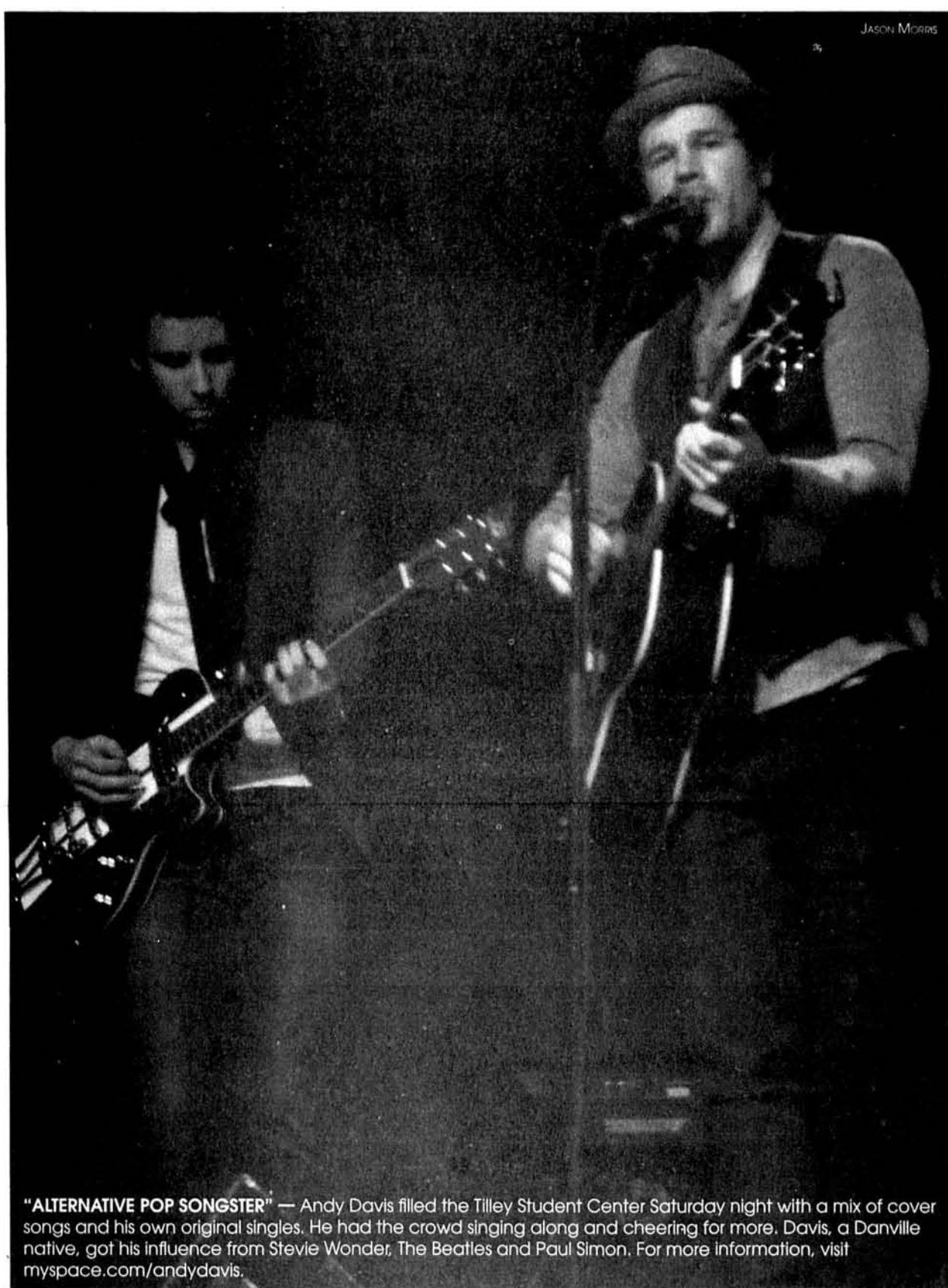
### Lynchburg Community Market

The Lynchburg Community Market, located in downtown Lynchburg at 1219 Main Street, is an open-air market, full of fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms, unique gifts, ethnic foods and live music. Open every day except Sunday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. The community market has different events tailored to holidays and the seasons. Chocolate Challenge is an upcoming event that will take place on Valentine's Day. Contact the Market at 434-455-4485.

### All Fired Up

All Fired Up, located at 4119 Boonsboro Road, is a fun place to hang out with your friends and create your own pottery. All Fired Up has a large assortment of paints to choose from, with which you can paint your pottery, then it is glazed and fired for your finished piece that you can take home with you. Hours of operation are Sundays 1-6 p.m., Tuesdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, visit allfireduplynchburg.com.

- compiled by Elizabeth Monroe



"ALTERNATIVE POP SONGSTER" — Andy Davis filled the Tilley Student Center Saturday night with a mix of cover songs and his own original singles. He had the crowd singing along and cheering for more. Davis, a Danville native, got his influence from Stevie Wonder, The Beatles and Paul Simon. For more information, visit [myspace.com/andydavis](http://myspace.com/andydavis).

# Professor Profile: Robert Rencher

**Emily DeFosse**  
LIFE REPORTER

After 27 years of experience in the business world, Associate Professor of Business Robert C. Rencher Jr. decided it was time to share his economic knowledge with others. Rencher took an early retirement from AT&T, and he and his wife Bonnie moved to Lynchburg in 1991 so he could begin a full-time teaching career at Liberty University.

Rencher was raised in south Florida. His parents divorced when he was 14 years old, leaving him questioning his beliefs.

"Seeing all my parents went through had sort of a negative role model effect on me," Rencher said. "I thought, 'If I ever get married, I'm not going to go through that,' and I had the sense to understand that Christians usually don't do that."

Rencher and his wife began dating their sophomore year of high school. In 1962 the couple married and began to set up a Christian home by going to church and doing devotions together.

"We were doing the right things by going to church on Sundays and attending Sunday school," Rencher said. "We had devotions together fairly regularly in the morning before I went to school and she went off to work. I just overlooked one small detail: for a Christian home, everyone in the home needs to be a Christian."

Rencher gave his life to the Lord in the spring of 1963, less than a year after he and his wife married.

Rencher has an Associate of Science degree in electronics technology from Palm Beach Community College, a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in management from Georgia State University and a

**"The basic concepts of economics can be applied in any area of a person's life."**

Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in economics from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Rencher had no formal teaching experience before coming to Liberty. He had, however, taught Sunday school, Bible studies, small groups and some AT&T classes and seminars when he worked for AT&T.

Since 1991 Rencher has been teaching economics to Liberty students. He views economics as an important subject to teach students.

"The basic concepts of economics can be applied in any area of a person's life, whether it is managing money or making decisions or deciding what kind of career to go into," Rencher said. "Whatever it may be, the principles of economics help

with those decisions."

"The opportunity to see students learn and grow is very rewarding, according to Rencher. He recalls a conversation with a journalism student he had a few years back in which the student acknowledged how important Rencher's economics class had been to her career.

Rencher currently resides in Lynchburg with his wife of 46 years. They have two married daughters and five grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys golf, reading, exercise and spending time with his grandchildren.

In the spring of 2005, Liberty allowed Rencher to take an administrative leave from teaching so he could take a trip to South Korea with his wife. They spent eight weeks teaching conversational English and Bible classes for college students there and then spent the next two weeks visiting missionaries in China.

"That (trip) was very rewarding for us, and we probably wouldn't have gotten the opportunity to do that had I not been at Liberty," Rencher said. "The university was very gracious in giving me that semester off, and I think when I finally do stop teaching full time, we will probably want to do some more short-term missions projects."

Contact Emily DeFosse at  
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Stephanie Chatman



# Times are Tough

## LU Dining is Giving Back

### ...to EVERYONE!

From now on, ANY purchase made at ANY location on campus using meal plan points will automatically receive a 5% discount on the menu price!

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## Faculty & Staff

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All meals and points expire at the end of the Spring semester - May 9, 2009.