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The Liberty Champion

Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Tuesday, April 22, 1997

Vol. 14, No. 25

PETTOGRASSO DECLARED OFFICIAL SGA PRESIDENT

SGA Elections Committee makes surprise decision after three days of deliberations

By TIMOTHY J. GIBBONS
Champion Reporter

Following three days of deliberation and a weekend of thought, the SGA Election Committee on Monday declared Marc Pettograsso the official SGA president-elect. Pettograsso received 366 votes, 60.1 percent of the adjusted total after the two front-running candidates had votes removed from their returns.

Jeff Coleman came in second in the official race with an adjusted total of 160 votes or 26.3 percent; Eric Hemati was third with an adjusted total of 82 votes or 13.4 percent.

The fines levied against the candidates lowered the total count from the 1,889 votes originally cast to the 608 from which the decision was made. Votes were deducted when candidates exceeded the \$600 spending cap, one vote for each dollar over the cap.

Total expenses included "fines" charged to the candidates for various infractions. The candidates did not pay the fines, which were levied for misdemeanors such as early campaigning. However, the amount of the fine was added to the candidates' total expenses.

The Election Committee determined that Coleman's expenditures — including fines — totaled \$1,482.05, putting him \$882.05 over the cap. The bulk of the money came from a \$650 charge for the "Coleman" hats, which Coleman had not declared, saying it was not a campaign expense; \$499.50 as a declared expense spent on signs and labels; and an undeclared

\$108.55 for Coleman's Election Night Watch party.

Hemati's campaign expenditures were figured at \$974.75, \$374.75 over the cap. The largest new charge was an additional \$400 levied for his "E" shirts; the candidate had declared he spent \$200 on the shirts but had not submitted receipts for the purchase. The Election Committee charged him \$600 for the shirts, saying that was "fair market value." Hemati also lost 25 votes for an "intentional infraction" of failing to submit any receipts.

This over-the-cap spending dropped Coleman's total from 1042 votes to 160 and Hemati's from 481 votes to 82.

"We did not throw out the votes," said current Executive Vice President Ted Elkins, a member of the Election Committee. "The candidates who handled the campaigns so flipantly threw out the wishes of the voters."

'A GAMBLE'

Pettograsso was not at the press conference when the decision was announced, but said later Monday that he thought the committee made a wise decision in penalizing the other two candidates.

"I think it's good for SGA," he said. "What we do, other people watch. If we don't run by the rules, it's a bad testimony."

Coleman wasn't as ecstatic. "I'm disappointed in the decision," he said Monday afternoon while canvassing the cafeteria, "letting the people know what happened."

"I do plan to appeal," he said.

Coleman said he had trouble with the



CHANGING OF THE GUARD — New President-elect Marc Pettograsso shakes hands with Jeff Coleman after the SGA Elections Committee announced its official election results on Monday.

Campaign Expense Report

Candidate Jeff Coleman	Candidate Eric Hemati
\$650.00 — Hat costs	\$600.00 — Value, 100 T-shirts
\$499.50 — Labels, signs, etc.	\$254.75 — Original cost minus documented \$200 expenditure for shirts
\$108.55 — Cost of Election Party	\$120.00 — Other infractions
\$55.00 — Banners	\$974.75 — Total expenditures
\$80.00 — Other infractions	\$600.00 — Spending cap
\$99.00 — Miscellaneous	\$374.75 — Total over cap
\$1482.05 — Total expenditures	
\$600.00 — Spending cap	
\$882.05 — Total over cap	

Burch resigns AD position

By JENNIFER PILLATH
Copy Editor

Chuck Burch, Director of Athletics at Liberty University, announced his resignation on Monday, April 21. Burch will be returning to his alma mater at Gardner-Webb University to take the position of Vice President for Athletics.

Burch has been the Director of Athletics at Liberty University since 1990. However, he couldn't pass the chance to return to his alma mater. "I was honored to be approached for this job," Burch said. "My experience as a student and an athlete at Gardner-Webb shaped me personally and professionally."

Since taking the position of Director of Athletics, Burch has been responsible for many improvements in LU's sports programs. He has worked in the areas of

modernizing facilities and equipment at Liberty. Among the highlights in Burch's career are the building of Williams Stadium, the Vines Center, the Liberty University softball field and the lighting of the soccer and track complex.

The Men's Big South Tournament was hosted under Burch's administration for the past two years, along with the combined men's/women's tournament this year.

Burch was thankful for the support that he was given while at Liberty. "I am very appreciative of the opportunity I have been given at Liberty University by Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin and the administration," said Burch. "I will leave good friends and memories as I head to Gardner-Webb."

Please See Related Story on New AD Kim Graham on Page A5



SENDING THEM OUT — Renowned evangelist Dr. Billy Graham will deliver the commencement address on May 3.

Three generations of Grahams participate in graduation

Three generations of the Graham family will play important roles in Liberty University's 1997 Commencement Ceremonies on May 3.

Dr. Billy Graham, the most revered and influential Christian leader of the 20th century, will bring the commencement address on Saturday, May 3.

Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell stated that he had been trying to get Graham as a speaker for several years.

"Dr. Graham is the patriarch of the 20th century church," Dr. Jerry Falwell stated. "There is no question that he will be remembered with the likes of Dwight Moody in the last century and Martin Luther in the Reformation."

Dr. Graham's son, Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse and board member of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, with his wife Jane and his family, will offer the commencement

prayer. (Franklin was Liberty's 1996 baccalaureate speaker).

The famous speaker's appearance at Liberty also coincides with the graduation of his grandson Will Graham.

"He said he would come, when I graduated," said Will Graham. "I'm looking forward to it."

Will Graham also stated that many other students are excited about the choice for the commencement speaker.

"A lot of them have family back home that were saved through my granddaddy's ministry," Will Graham stated. "Most of them are really excited."

Will Graham will be among the approximate 1,500 graduates that will receive their diplomas on Saturday.

Dr. Graham's wife Ruth, a renowned author, will also attend the commencement services.

Franklin and Jane have another son, Roy, completing his freshman year

at Liberty University.

Although Liberty has attracted various well-known speakers in the past, Falwell said this year's commencement will be one of the most prestigious.

"The 1990 commencement speaker was a sitting president (George Bush). That was a date in the history of Liberty University. This one will rank with that," he said. "The class of 1997 will never forget their commencement."

Service master Chairman C. William Pollard will bring the 1997 baccalaureate address on Friday evening, May 2.

The commencement festivities will begin at 9:00 a.m. on May 3. All persons planning to attend are advised to arrive as early as possible, as seating will be on a first-come, first serve basis.

— Staff Reports

Words of Wit ...

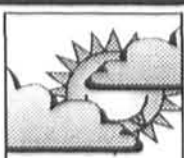
"If I am not to go into journalism as a career, what am I doing sacrificing so much time to the newspaper gods?"

Matt questions his job and his sanity.



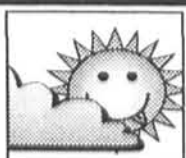
Wed.

Rainy and chilly.
High 58,
Low 48.



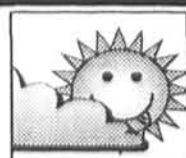
Thurs.

Cloudy and cool.
High 54,
Low 44.



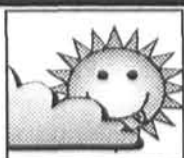
Fri.

Partly cloudy.
High 66,
Low 45.



Sat.

Partly sunny.
High 67,
Low 50.



Sun.

Sunny and warmer.
High 70,
Low 56.

Inside:

Here & There pg. A2

Rick's counting the days pg. A6

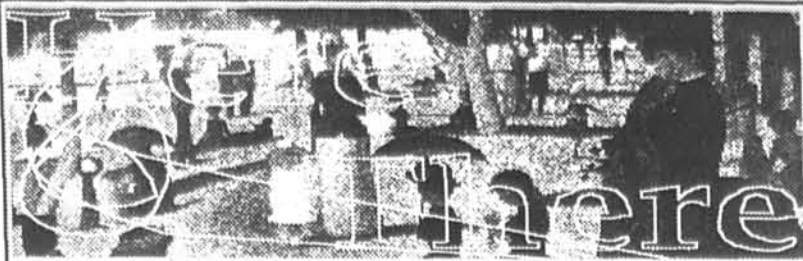
Year-end sports review pg. B4

Becky reminisces about home pg. B6

The year in pictures pg. B7

Laurelei takes the reins pg. B1

Convocation: Schedule unavailable as of press time.



Women's Conference: Dee Brestin, author of "The Friendships of Women," will be the keynote speaker at the First Annual Central Virginia Women's Conference, to be held at Thomas Road Baptist Church on April 26. The cost of the conference has been lowered for faculty, staff and their spouses to \$20 and for LU students and their spouses to \$15. Registration costs can be paid to the Central Va. Women's Conference by check. Send payment to Bev Lowry, c/o the Psychology Department.

ladies will be able to see the men's dorms from 9-9:45 p.m.

Permanent E-mail: Graduating seniors and other students who will be relocating for the summer can now establish a free, permanent e-mail address through NetAddress, a new e-mail service from USA.NET. NetAddress is compatible with PC, MAC and UNIX systems and POP mail readers such as Eudora, Netscape Mail and MS Mail. NetAddress can be accessed at <http://netaddress.usa.net> on the Internet.

Spring Open Dorms: The offices of Student Life and Residence Life will offer students the opportunity to see how the other half lives Thursday, April 24, as all dorms are opened for Spring semester Open Dorms. Men will be able to visit the ladies' dorms from 8-8:45 p.m. and

Swing Set to Compete: Contemporary Christian group Swing Set will compete in the Gospel Music Association's Annual National Spotlight Competition April 23, in Nashville, Tenn. The competition will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Renaissance Hotel Ballroom and will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

Send postings a minimum of two weeks prior to event to Jason Ingram, c/o Liberty Champion.

Corrections

— Dr. Steven Troxel's name was misspelled in last week's article "Coms club holds first event."
— The Selah advertisement in last week's issue should have read \$29.97, not \$12.97.

Lacy Bailey,

You are old enough, good enough and smart enough to make it in the world!! We love you!

Mom, Wayne, & Joey.

You are the best!
Jeremiah 29: 11-13

LU ad team places third in district

By JASON INGRAM
News Editor

The Liberty University Advertising Team traveled to the Radisson Governor's Inn in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., on April 11, to compete in the annual National Student Advertising Competition. The team placed third out of eight schools in the highly competitive Third District, ahead of such colleges as the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State and William and Mary.

The University of South Carolina placed first overall in the competition and advanced to the national competition in Kansas City, Missouri June 14-16. USC has dominated the event for the last decade, winning the first-place trophy seven times in eight years.

The trip marked the fifth time in the past seven years that LU had fielded a team for the competition

and the first time that a Liberty team had placed. Kelly Bogart, a senior advertising/public relations major, said that the team was confident going into the competition. "Third place met our expectations," said Bogart. "We thought that we would place."

Team advisor Allyson Goodman said that while announcing the winners of the event, the judges stressed that teams who placed second or third in the historically strong Third District could have placed first in other districts. According to the judges, the incredible level of competition between the schools in the Third District is the only thing that kept Liberty from placing higher.

"I think that says volumes for the quality of the program we have here at Liberty," Goodman said. "What was stressed to me (by the judges) was that the students' ability to think strategically ... was the reason they placed third."

Goodman also noted that the winners of the Third District have placed in the top five schools nationally since the competition's inception in 1973.

The teams that participated in the contest were given the challenge of developing a marketing campaign with suggestions for public relations, promotions and advertising activities, media planning and purchasing for the Pizza Hut restaurant chain.

To gather information for the study, the Liberty ad team conducted two focus groups and distributed 500 surveys. The results of the surveys were compiled into a 40-page plans book which was given to the judges before the competition on April 1. The team then

created proposals with direct mail pieces, television and radio commercials, newspaper ads, outdoor boards and T-shirts.

"Pretty much everything they proposed they created," said Goodman. "In addition, the team wrote a 20-minute audio-visual presentation which they presented to the judges."

The ad team will present their award-winning campaign to the faculty, staff and student body on Monday, April 21, in DeMoss Hall 119. They will also present the campaign to the Roanoke Advertising Club and to the Lynchburg Marketing and Advertising Association on Tuesday, April 22, and Wednesday, April 23, respectively.

Poggemillers honored in Who's Who publication



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. AND MRS. POGGEMILLER
WHO'S WHO — Dr. and Mrs. Helmuth Poggemiller will appear in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Dr. and Mrs. Helmuth Poggemiller were selected by Who's Who Among America's Teachers to appear in its fourth edition — a collection of teacher biographies.

Who's Who is a national organization that recognizes the accomplishments of America's students and teachers. Teachers are nominated by honor students, who, in turn, appear in the student addition of Who's Who. The Poggemillers' biographies were included in the 1996 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

— Matt Swinehart

City, TRBC to provide graduation transport

Buses and shuttles are being called upon to assist in the transportation of some of the expected 25,000 plus people who are expected to attend Liberty's commencement ceremony on May 3.

Four Greater Lynchburg Transportation Commission buses and two Thomas Road Baptist Church shuttles will travel from two Ericsson lots, David's Place and Central Virginia Community

College to Williams Stadium beginning at 7 a.m. on the morning of commencement.

The buses and shuttles are expected to transport around 3,280 passengers in two hours running time. An estimated 6,800 cars will fill LU and area parking lots for the ceremony.

— Staff Reports

Congratulations Hodge!

It's finally here, the second biggest day in your life, it doesn't seem so long ago that God gave you to us to watch over and then you were singing, "We're whirly birds for Jesus", or getting your license and graduating from high school. We were and are so proud of you. We remember your first day at Liberty. I was ready to bring you home with us. (It sure was quiet riding home.) We're so glad you stayed. We've watched you grow and mature into a beautiful young woman that loves the Lord Jesus, ready for what God has in store for you. We love you Baby and today marks the beginning of a great adventure in life. We continue to pray for God's best for you and that you continue to follow His leading. A verse of scripture for you: Colossians 1:9-14

Mom and Dad

JAMIE,

They said it couldn't be done.
They said you couldn't do it.

But you said:

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength and the power." Phil. 4:13

We are so proud of you!

**LOVE, MOM DAD, ROB, STEPHANIE,
DANIEL, GRANDMOMMIE,
MEM AND GRANDDADDY.**

The Liberty Champion congratulates all of the Graduating Seniors.

To our special **David Cho**:
Here is a poem your baby sis' wrote.
The theme: Forging a New Blade.
Modern Translation:
Starting a New Chapter in Your Life.



Having received training
In the formation and discipline of character
The time arrives to begin the final synthesis.
Like swords in the making, I watch as
Iron gnashes iron,
Mind sharpens mind, and
Spirit purifies spirit;
Thus yielding a more gentle nature,
Pliant and able to be consolidated
To form a refined union
Where merges faith with learning,
Knowledge with the understanding of its use, and
Leadership with compassion and humility
We, like swords girded with the Truth,
Must go far beyond the doors of the classroom,
Reach deep into the extensive universe,
Piercing our world
In answer to the call of The Blacksmith Himself.

By Maria Cho, but FROM the entire family to you.
Congratulations on this milestone, Dave!

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—Rolling Stone

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COMS department to dedicate center

The naming of the print side labs of the media graphic production program of the Department of Communication Studies will take place in a special ceremony at noon Saturday.

The rooms will be called the Kirkpatrick Media Center at the request of Jim and Ann Wharton, who donated an entire graphics lab to the department last fall.

The dedication in DeMoss Hall 109-110 will include the presentation of two plaques, one for display in each room, and a demonstration of the new Media Center computers. Dr. Jerry Falwell will be present for the dedication. Refreshments will also be served afterward in the atrium.

"We would like to remember John and Alice Margaret and their generosity to others," said Mrs. Wharton. "Without (their) generosity to us, this advanced graphics lab would not have been possible."

Professor Wharton joined the LU faculty in 1983 when the journalism major was launched. Along with her assignment to teach, she was hired to develop the new campus newspaper, the Liberty Champion.

Thanks to the Wharton and Kirkpatrick donations, the media center has been remodeled from top to bottom. New computers and graphics software, including Quark X Press, have been added to the center. A 100-megabyte Jazz drive, a writable CD-ROM and other accessories have also been provided as a result of these gifts.

For those not able to attend the dedication ceremony this Saturday, another demonstration of the Kirkpatrick Media Center computers will be given after the commencement ceremonies on May 3.

— Staff Reports

LU student receives perfect score

By CRAIG REIKES
Champion Reporter

Liberty student Monica Hostettler recently earned a perfect score of 335 on the written part of her PRAXIS testing, the test taken by Liberty students majoring in education.

Hostettler came two points shy of a perfect score on the reading part of the test as well, garnering a score of 333 out of a possible 335. Hostettler currently works in the College of General Studies as an academic adviser where she

aids students on academic warning in order to keep them off of academic probation.

Hostettler graduated from Bethel Christian School in Hampton, Va. She was valedictorian of the class with a GPA of 3.9. Hostettler, a senior majoring in elementary education, will graduate in December of 1997, completing a four-year degree in three and a half years.

Her advice to students is simple. "Work hard while you're in school," she said. "Have a good attitude. People notice when you

have a Christian attitude."

Hostettler plans to work at Sylvan Learning Centers over the summer in the technology division of the school. After graduation, she plans on working in the teaching and tutoring division of Sylvan Learning Center.

Hostettler credited her parents, Joan and Gordon Hostettler, for her success.

"If it wasn't for the teachings instilled by my parents I wouldn't be able to do all I've done," said Hostettler.



SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES
— Senior Monica Hostettler scored perfect on her PRAXIS test.

Construction to begin on baseball complex

Construction to begin on new building by May or June

By JENNIFER PILLATH
Champion Reporter

Final plans are under way for Liberty's new baseball facility. Construction on the new complex should be started by the middle of May or the beginning of June.

The new building will be an extension of the dug-out on third base. A batting cage and a pitcher's mound will be added on to the back of the building in order to provide more practice area for the team.

The new complex will provide teams with locker rooms as well as a team meeting room, training facilities, a batting cage

and public restrooms. Office area for the coaches and umpires is also included in the plan.

The meeting room will provide a place for coaches to meet with their teams as well as a place for off-campus students to study in between practices.

"We really need that extra space," said Head Coach Johnny Hunton.

There have been problems in the planning process for the new complex. The original plans called for a two story building that would allow for extra seating for the fans. However, the costs estimates were too high and the two-story design has been postponed until more funds can be raised.

The funding for the building has come

mostly from private and business donations.

The first phase of the building will be the ground floor, which will contain the locker rooms and the team meeting room. From there, Hunton hopes that more donations will come in to finish off the project.

"When people see what you're doing, you can get more done," said Hunton.

There are a number of donors who have already helped out in the building process. One businessman has donated all of the plumbing for the building, along with a monetary contribution of \$50,000.

In addition to donations, the team has worked on fundraisers, including a T-shirt sale earlier this year.

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99¢

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Top Sirloin Steaks
Pound
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Save \$2.50/Lb.

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CAFFEINE FREE DIET COKE, SPRITE OR
Diet Coke or Coca Cola Classic
6-Pack 20-oz. BtIs.
\$1.99
Save At Least \$1.00
Four 6-packs per customer at this price please

YELLOW, WHITE OR BI-COLOR
Sweet Corn
Ear
19¢
Save at least 14¢

REGULAR OR LOW SALT
Gwaltney Sliced Bacon 1-lb. PKG.
FREE! Buy One-Get One FREE!

HOT OR MILD
Valleydale Pork Sausage 1-lb. Roll
FREE! Buy One-Get One FREE!

CHICKEN, STEAK OR SAUSAGE
Jimmy Dean Biscuits 6.6-8.0-oz. PKG.
FREE! Buy One-Get One FREE!

DELI NEW YORK STYLE
Jumbo Bagels 6-Ct. PKG.
FREE! Buy One-Get One FREE!

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Administration analyzes Assessment Day results

By MATT SWINEHART
Editor in Chief

The annual Assessment Day survey results have been tabulated and the Office of Planning, Research and Assessment has compiled two lists, one listing the top 10 strengths of LU and the other listing the top 10 weaknesses. The lists, along with the survey results, will be presented to President A. Pierre Guillermin, his Cabinet and later to the Board of Trustees upon their next visit in May.

"We don't want students to think this is worthless," said Steve Foster, a research assistant for the Office of PRA. "Students may look at this very lightly, but by the administration (Assessment Day) is not taken that way." Foster noted that the Assessment Day surveys are the one time during the school year in which students can voice their opinions to the administration.

Foster and Dr. Ellen Black, the Vice President of the Office of PRA, expressed their gratitude to the students for being very cooperative throughout the process. Foster and Black both stated that they were very surprised by the short amount of time it took students to finish the assessment.

While it is not up to the Office of PRA to decide

what, if any changes are implemented, Foster said that the Board of Trustees will make the final decision. He admitted that although the Board of Trustees does hold stringent guidelines on certain things, it is not entirely impossible to see something changed. According to Foster, changes have been seen in the dress and music codes in recent years.

However, there are some issues that simply cannot be fixed overnight. Parking, said Foster, cannot be fixed because of the need for a large amount of money to construct the additional lots. Foster noted that students need to understand that there are no easy answers to any of these problems. Some students have suggested taking away freshmen privileges of parking on campus to help remedy the problem. However, Foster posed the question of those freshmen who would be unable to continue a job upon losing their transportation.

Foster and Black have personally read through the surveys and are now attempting to contact any students that have left their phone numbers. The surveys were taken by approximately 2,500 students, almost half of LU's population. The results were made from a random sampling of 300 students.

Top Ten Strengths of Liberty University

1. Spiritual Emphasis—48.3%
2. Faculty—41.6%
3. Student/Friends—20.3%
4. Sports—17.6%
5. Academics—9.6%
6. Activities—7.6%
7. Jerry Falwell—7.3%
8. Girls—4.3%
8. Campus Church—4.3%
8. Convocation—4.3%

Top Ten Weaknesses of Liberty University

1. Dress Code—26.3%
2. Parking—14%
3. Business Office—10%
4. Security—6.3%
5. Dorms—6%
5. Library—6%
5. Curfew—6%
8. Admission policy too lenient—5%
9. Lack of computers—4.3%
10. Convocation/Marriott—3.6%

Sidewalk project remains undone

By JAMI ERNSPERGER
Champion Reporter

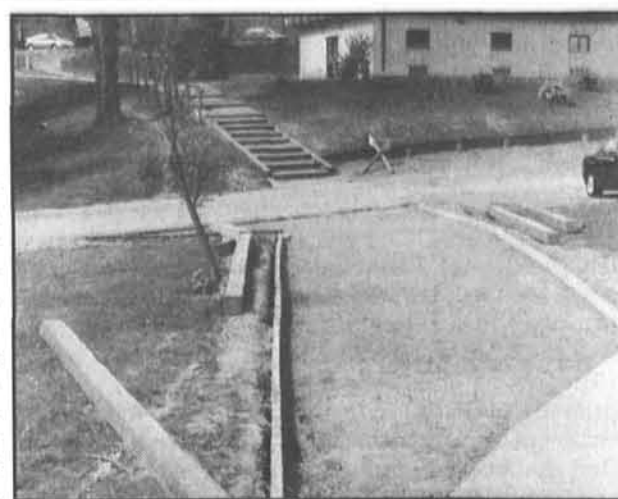
Numerous attempts this semester to pave the sidewalk between Dorm 3 and the Vines Center have been met with failure because of inclement weather and lack of volunteers.

Alpha Lambda Delta, the national honors club for sophomores who had undertaken the project, had intended to finish the sidewalk Saturday, April 19, but were again faced with a lack of volunteer labor.

Alpha Lambda Delta President Ira Steele originally suggested that the area between Dorm 3 and Vines be paved to counteract the red clay which floods the area whenever it rains. Ben Hill, another member of ALD who dedicated his time and labor to the sidewalk effort, said that the idea stemmed from a desire to give something back to Liberty.

"We thought that students should take initiative to improve our campus," said Hill. "As a group we chose to complete this sidewalk...we would like to see other students doing the same."

Alpha Lambda Delta raised \$600 through fundraisers and club dues toward the construction of the new sidewalk. In addition, members of the LU faculty including education professor Dr. John Donaldson and members of the community including Art Barbaros contributed their time to the project. Barbaros, a local contractor, donated his own materials



THE WOODFORD/LIBERTY CHAMPION

IN NEED OF A POTTER — The area between Dorm 3 and the Vines Center remains a clay pit.

to the building of the sidewalk.

The walkway between Dorm 3 and the Vines Center was first prepared for the paving on April 5. Workers removed several yards of clay and rock and placed a frame for the sidewalk in the soil. The sidewalk was to be completed before the end of the semester, but has now been postponed indefinitely.

Senators sit out final SGA meeting of semester

By JULIE COZBY
Champion Reporter

Liberty's Student Government Association wound down to an anticlimactic finish with its final meeting of the spring semester on Thursday, April 17. The Senate showed signs of fatigue following a week of election havoc and candidate bickering.

The meeting was led by Jason Mashburn, who sat in for Senate leader Ted Elkins. Of the approximately 80 senators on the roll, only half were on hand for the meeting.

Two bills were slated for presentation to the assembly. One resolution, which called for the Hancock Athletic building to "be open to all students in their pur-

suit of fitness," since, "we as students are paying for the upkeep of this facility," was not formally presented because bill author Howard Thomas was not present.

The other bill, authored by Robert Ritzenthaler and Matthew Rose, was presented and subsequently withdrawn when it became clear that there were not enough senators present to vote.

The bill invited the Senate to revise existing campaign rules, suggesting that candidates be given more than one week in which to verbally campaign in order to "fully cover their constituent base, ... and present their platform." The measure also requested candidates "not be allowed to secure initial ballot signatures prior to the start of the academic spring semester." The bill will be brought before the SGA again next year.

Graduate: Tammy L. Britton

Dear Tammy,

Each cherished goal within your heart that you have pursued is shared by God. He knows your strengths, the gifts you have to give and the special purpose you fulfill each day you live. May He bless your Graduation Day with joy and guide you through a lifetime rich in happiness and fulfillment.

WE ARE SO PROUD
AND LOVE YOU
VERY MUCH!!!
Love, Mom and Dad



Congratulations "Jason"

We are so very proud of you.
"May God grant you the desires of
your heart, and may all your plans
succeed." Psalm 20:4



We love You,
Mom, Dad & Matt



Lori Pettit

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you and your work. May God
bless your future work.

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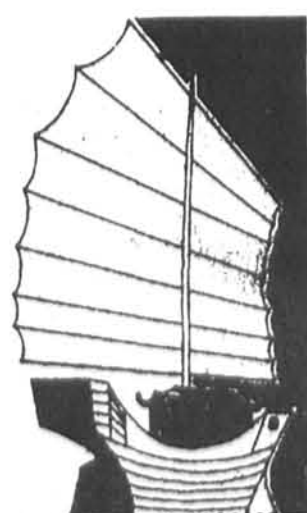
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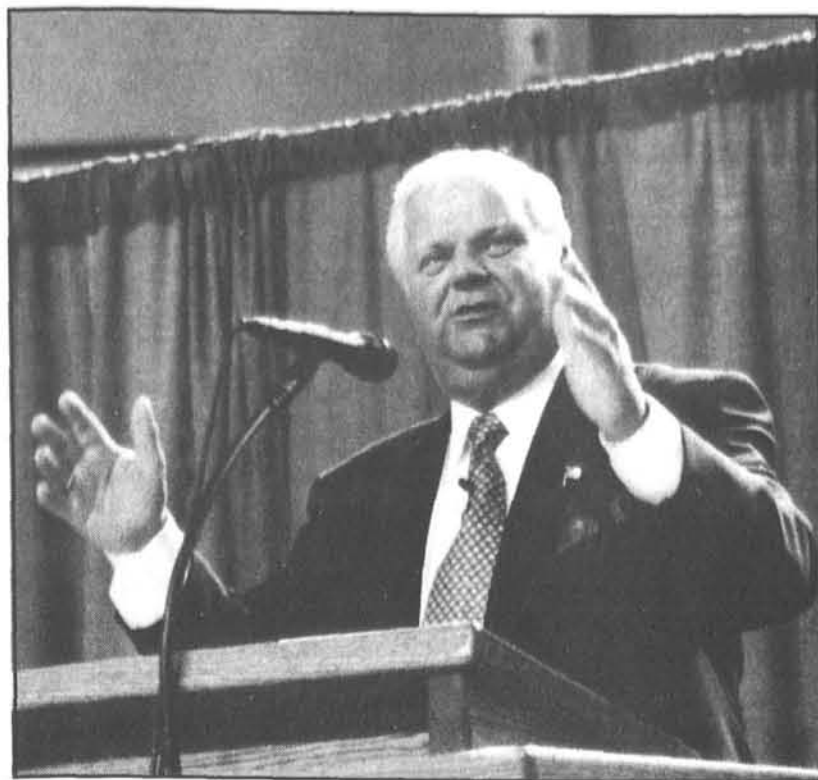
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SUCCESS STORY — Restaurateur and Horatio Alger Award recipient Tom Harken addressed the student body during convocation on Monday, April 14.

Harken brings message, hugs to Liberty students

By JASON INGRAM
News Editor

Beaumont, Texas, businessman and 1992 Horatio Alger Award winner Tom Harken visited Liberty on April 14, addressing the student body in convocation. Harken owns the Casa Ole' and Jose's Patio restaurant chains and is also a motivational speaker who has delivered more than 450 speeches on overcoming personal adversities to achieve success.

Perhaps no one is more qualified to address the subject of conquering hardships than Harken, who was diagnosed with polio at an early age.

"(Polio) was like AIDS a little bit," said Harken. "Everyone was afraid they were going to get it."

In addition to having contracted polio, Harken was later stricken with tuberculosis. Harken's father moved out of their home when the boy was still young so that his mother could treat his illnesses.

"It was a very lonely time when I was a kid," said Harken. "There was no one to come read to you ... they all wanted to stay away from you."

Perhaps the most difficult challenge of Harken's life, however, was his struggle with illiteracy.

"I don't know what it's like to be black," said Harken. "I don't know what it's like to be a woman and have a baby ... but I could not read."

Harken overcame his disability with the help of his wife, Melba. "Miss Melba was my strength," Harken said. "One word, one letter at a time, she taught this short, fat guy how to read."

Harken put his life story to paper in his autobiography, "Miss Melba and Me." During convocation, he distributed order forms for autographed copies of the book to the students in attendance.

Harken encouraged the audience to value their education and even gave a few eager students a touch of personal encouragement by embracing them at midcourt of the Vines Center.

"I would give anything if I was a graduate," Harken said. "I would give anything if I only had four years of education. Your time is right now, and I challenge you to do it."

'Return to elegance'

Upperclassmen fill Hotel Roanoke as formal is moved from Virginia Dare

By JASON INGRAM
News Editor

The annual Liberty University Jr./Sr. Banquet experienced a "Return to Elegance" Saturday, April 19, as the event was relocated from the Virginia Dare, a riverboat on Smith Mountain Lake, to the Crystal Ballroom in the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va. More than 500 LU students attended the banquet, which featured a professional photographer, a sit-down dinner and a concert by contemporary Christian music group Newsong.

Senior Class Vice President Rayna Lund, who coordinated the event along with Senior Class President Matthew MacMichael, Junior Class President Joey Barney and Junior Class Vice President Ryan Visco, explained the reasoning behind the change of venue.

"(The banquet) was switched to the ballroom because the ballroom had a more elegant atmosphere than a boat with a tarp on it," said Lund. "The hotel was also larger, so the students could walk around and mingle more."

Lund was pleased with the number of students in attendance at the event and with their conduct.

"I was very happy with the turnout, with the attire and with the etiquette students displayed this night," said Lund. "Everyone looks exceptional."

According to Barney, the event took two

months to coordinate and was paid for in part by the administration.

"The cost was more than what the students paid (for tickets)," said Barney. "LU really helped us out with the cost of the banquet."

Barney admitted that acquiring a musical artist was difficult due to the annual Gospel Music Association Conference, which was held in Nashville, Tenn., simultaneously with the banquet and attracted many contemporary Christian performers.

"We had a lot of trouble getting an artist because of GMA, but Newsong was really there for us," said Barney. "They are really tight with LU and they have been really good to us."

Liberty sponsored Newsong's highly successful "People Get Ready" tour last fall and is currently sponsoring their "Love Revolution" tour as well. Lead singer Russ Lee spoke to the crowd between sets and offered words of wisdom to the graduating seniors in the audience.

"Don't put God's stamp on what you're doing and pretend that it is God's will," said Lee. "Seek God's will for your life and use your talents to do what the Lord has for you to do."

After the banquet, several late-night activities were made available to the students, including local coffee houses and a trip to the star, a huge illuminated landmark on Mill Mountain in Roanoke.



JUST THE SAX, MAN — Newsong instrumentalist Scotty Wilbanks wows the crowd at the Jr./Sr. banquet last Saturday.

Graham named new athletic director

Assistant Athletic Director Kim Graham was promoted to the office of Director of Athletics at a press conference held Tuesday morning, April 22. The announcement by Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin, President of the University followed the resignation of Athletic Director Chuck Burch on Monday evening.

Graham is a graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky, where he completed his degree in health and physical education in 1977. Graham remained with Georgetown in a graduate assistant capacity and earned his master's degree in physical education in 1978.

Graham began his Liberty

career in 1978 as wide receivers coach, offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator for the LU football team. From there, he ascended to the position of Assistant Director of Athletics, where he was responsible for acting as a liaison between LU, the NCAA and the Big South Conference. Among Graham's other responsibilities were educating coaches and players regarding new NCAA and Big South compliances, processing transfer students and handling their eligibility status and monitoring expenditures for each sport.

— Staff Reports



SAY 'CHEESE' — LU students and Champion editors Laurel Miller and Jason Ingram smile for the cameras at the Jr./Sr. Banquet.

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OPINION

The Liberty Champion

The Official Newspaper of Liberty University
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"... Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" 2 Corinthians 3:17.

It's finally over. Have a great summer, everyone!

Well, we're counting down the hours now. Another two weeks and we'll all be outta here. This is the last issue of the Champion for this semester and we're winding things down in the office. It's feeling more like spring (at least occasionally), and we're all looking forward to going home. Exams are coming up; final projects, papers, productions and student teaching assignments are due. We're finding out that two and three o'clock in the morning are really hours after all. Everybody's torn between wanting to get good grades and wanting to get home. Let's worry about the grades first; we'll be home in two weeks.

Next semester we'll be back to the "old" class schedule. It's about time. An hour and 20 minutes is plenty long enough for a class without tacking on 15 minutes more. We'll take the extra week of classes, although ... May 3 looks really good right now.

It's been a great semester in Liberty's history. The Lady Flames made us all proud during the Big South Tournament. The computer labs are being updated - however slowly. The SGA elections were competitive for once, and the furor over campaign practices has made life interesting. The library's computerized directories are coming up to speed. Convo has had some great speakers such as Tom Harken and J.C. Watts. Billy Graham is coming for commencement, and it's finally over - almost.

Summer's just days away - a chance to pay some bills, get some sleep, relax, see old friends and family again. Five thousand people will leave Lynchburg and spread out across the world. Most of us will be back next fall, but Liberty is losing some of its pillars to graduation. The Champion staff is losing an editor-in-chief, a sports editor and a Life! editor, among others.

Good luck to all the graduates. Hope you find a job soon. After four years of studying, learning and trying to survive, you've earned it. When you walk up to get that diploma in front of family, friends and assorted fans, savor it. Slow down and realize what you've accomplished. A lot of people will never do what you did. Congratulations!

To everybody else we wish a great summer, a lot of good times and some sleep before we see you again. It's been a tough semester; you've earned a break; go get it! We'll see you next fall.

Billy Graham tailgate party? Why not!?

Here's a suggestion - for what it's worth. How about a graduation tailgate party on Friday night before commencement? After all, it is the last night at Liberty for a lot of students. We think there ought to be a way to celebrate. For starters, maybe Student Life or some related organization could set up a couple of tents. Then we'd have to have food, maybe even a catered dinner. Let everybody stay up all night; it's the last chance for a lot of seniors to socialize here.

May 3 is a pretty big day for Liberty. We'll hear Billy Graham speak and see a lot of people get their sheepskins. People will realize a lifelong dream, and on the other hand many people will lose a lot of relationships as well. Let's give everyone a final chance to get together and have fun; let their hair down, celebrate finishing the college experience. Don't let Graduation Weekend become an anticlimax. Let's enjoy it a little.

For those students who are coming back, they won't see each other all summer long. We can give them a rousing send-off too. This could be something to remember all summer.

We've all worked hard enough to get to this point. We've earned a bit of celebration. We ought to reward ourselves a little. Of course there are the baccalaureate service and reception, but our idea would give all the students a chance to get together and have fun.

Who's going to do this? Good question, but the idea deserves a hearing. Just thought we'd throw it out for consideration. Think about it!

Quotes of the week...

"The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."
-Isaiah 40:31



It's summer time and I'm ready to have fun

I'm not entirely sure how to start this column ... this is the last issue of the semester and my first time on this page! I've been working with Tom Inkel for the last two weeks learning the ropes, or rather the keyboard, here at the Champion. I'll be the opinion editor when classes get back in swing next semester, so I guess I'm practicing now. It's going to be difficult to fill Tom's shoes around here; I hadn't realized just how much he is responsible for. He really does a tremendous job, and he's a great writer too.

The last two weeks have been a real learning experience. I'm learning about the pressure of unmovable deadlines (the paper must go out), the never ending frustrations of battling unwilling computers and lethargic printers and the demands that come with producing a newspaper's opinion section.

I'm learning how to paste-up the pages and edit copy, how to insert cartoons into blank spots on the page, how to change page layout and do all kinds of other equally outlandish-sounding operations. Poor Tom is probably getting sick of answering my stupid questions.

I'm really grateful to Mrs. Huff and the staff here for giving me this chance. I'm having a great time already. It's easier than I thought it would be to work on a column at two and three in the morning. Tim Gibbons tells me I'm just crazy enough to work here, and I guess he's right!

This job is going to take some getting used to though, and I hope the student body will help me out. I need to know what you think about issues that affect LU students. It's fun writing my own opinion, but I'd like to truly represent the students. So, send me your letters to the editor. Those whom God has blessed with talents in writing or drawing, please avail yourself of the opportunity the Champion provides. It's the students, not the staff, who write most of our opinion pieces and draw our cartoons. I hope the student body will make the effort to have their opinions represented next semester.

On the positive side, I've gotten to know some really neat people. I wish I'd met Tim Gibbons, Kris Patterson and Julie Cozby earlier. Matt Swinehart, Laurelei Miller and the other up-and-coming faces have been great to work with too. Next semester is going to be fun!

Maybe I should introduce myself officially, since this is my first time.

I'm a communications major hoping to be an opinion writer once out of college (so, needless to say, this job is intensely interesting to me). I'm a local type; I've lived in Lynchburg ever since I can remember. I've always set my calendar by Liberty's schedule; about the middle of August Lynchburg comes alive and then in early May it suddenly gets really quiet. (I know, I know - you thought Lynchburg was pretty dead already! I guess I'm just used to it. The slow pace is nice sometimes. It grows on you.)

I started at Liberty last fall and have thoroughly enjoyed it. The discipline a college schedule has forced on me has been a real plus in my personal life. (If I thought I was learning discipline before, the late nights at the Champion have quickly educated me as to what discipline really is.)

I'm learning the importance of meeting deadlines, disciplining my sleep and study habits, and following through on projects. To maintain the kind of GPA I'm looking for, I have to produce the best product I can. It's been tough at times, but all in all the college freshman experience has been mostly positive.

Well, I'm looking forward to summer. Enough discipline for now! I'm ready for softball season and summer inner-tubing trips down the James River. I'm following the Red Sox season religiously. I can't wait to actually step out-of-doors and get some serious exercise for the first time since last August. I suspect I'm not alone in wishing for a break from deadlines, projects, speeches, papers, homework and long nights in the computer lab.

I'll be doing the construction thing again for the next few months. I hate it, but it pays well. Maybe by next semester I can replace my massive station wagon with something a little more generationally appropriate!

Take advantage of the summer; get some R&R (and maybe a little extra cash). Remember too, Liberty's testimony rests on our shoulders. We need to represent our school with class. Let's make a positive impact across the world this summer.

Have a great summer and I'll see you in August. Vaya con Dios!



RICK BOYER

What am I doing here anyway?

Mark Twain once said "I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good, so that God will not make me one." I never knew quite what he meant until I recently took over the unenviable task of being editor in chief.

I sometimes sit back and ask myself "Matt, what on earth are you doing here?" I mean, journalism isn't even my major. I'm more into graphic design and things of that sort. Could I more effectively commit social and mental suicide than by locking myself in a dungeon of 30-hour work weeks, featuring an endless torture of questions, cut articles, misspelled words, slow printers, server-shut-downs and sleepless nights that seem to have no end? Am I crazy to do this?



MATT SWINEHART

Some sound words of advice adorned my humble ears at a recently-attended journalism conference at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. Journalist David Aikman gave some words of warning to young wanderers such as myself. He said if you're not called to go into journalism, find something else because it's not worth it.

That shocked me. I began to do some deep soul-searching in an attempt to weed through my life direction. Could this be my calling. Am I destined to live a life as Mark Twain described, a very nondesirable circumstance for an underpaid salary and a critic-laden public image?

However, upon leaving the conference, I had found some solace in my future chore. After all, I had only been with the Champion for two weeks as a guest reporter when Mr. Gibbons and Mrs. Huff coerced or uh, asked me to take the position as news editor. I'm not one to boast, but I had moved through the ranks of guest reporter to news editor to editor in chief in less than nine months time. I was beginning to think that I may have one of those gifts or gasp, callings for journalism.

Whether I do or not, I'm still uncertain. Everybody hits a plateau in their relative hobbies and talents sometime. And as I had previously discovered upon burning out after my second year of college tennis, that plateau can be reached far too quickly at times.

So, there was, and is, only one question remaining in my mind: If I am not to go into journalism as a career, what am I doing sacrificing so much to the newspaper gods? Is it all worth the sacrifice of grades, sleep and mental well-being? To be honest, I'm not totally certain one way or the other.

But the one thing I've learned is that the people I've met and the relationships I've built have meant more to me than my certainty of a career. There's something special about the bond between people that work together in the midst of deadlines, yelling, kicking, jumping, screaming, crying (I'm getting carried away). There's something truly wonderful about the group of people that I've worked with this past year - I'll miss every one of you - and the group of editors I'll boss around next year. Ha, ha, ha.

I've realized that while it may or may not be my calling to be a reporter - or even editor - one day, it is worth my time and energy to come back and do it all again next year. I'll see everyone in the fall. Don't forget to use sunscreen.

The Liberty Champion

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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 113 or mail to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24506-8001.

Speak Up "What are you planning to do this summer?"



"Work at an inner city sports camp"
- Mark Woolf, So. Ontario, Canada



"I plan on working, as well as being a camp counselor for a couple of kids' camps."
- Heather Hehl, Fr. Clearwater, Florida



"I'm going home to look for work. If I don't find a job I'll volunteer at a Christian summer camp."
- Reuben Todd, Fr. Ontario, Canada



"I intend to work at a department store and go to summer school. I also plan to work in a daycare."
- Jill Robinson, Jr. Richmond, Virginia



"I plan to work two jobs, one being at a day camp at Washington Bible College."
- Sarah Lemon, Fr. Calvert County, Maryland



"I sell Bibles door-to-door for Thomas Nelson Publishers."
- Robert Hodges, Jr. Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Correction: Last week we ran an erroneous photograph in "Speak Up." We ran a photo of Jenny McCain, and used a quote from another individual. We apologize for the incorrect identification.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS WARE

COMMENTARY

Christians should judge themselves first

By RACHEL ELIZABETH
Champion Editorialist

Conservative Christians like to take a strong stand against sin in issues that affect the political world, such as abortion. This is good, but sometimes we find ourselves arguing over the political consequences of sin, rather than the sin itself. This is important because when Christians overlook sin by focusing too much on its consequences, they look like hypocrites. Christians have learned, consciously or not, to sin in secret and cover up the consequences. Sometimes this creates another sin. Obviously, Christians don't intend to do this, yet it happens when we don't make sin the issue.

Take, for example, the question of abortion. Christians are correct when they say it's immoral, but what if the failure to focus on the real issue results in more abortions? How often have you heard preachers talk about the immoral girls who have babies out of wedlock? But having a baby out of wedlock is not the sin, having sex out of

wedlock is sin. This isn't a minor point, but a very significant one. A girl who has a baby out of wedlock has done nothing worse than the other girls (and boys) who have had sex out of wedlock but haven't gotten caught. She is actually in a higher moral position than the girl who aborts her baby. That is what pastors need to emphasize. The sin and disgrace should be placed only on the sin and not on the consequences of the sin. This makes it easier for the girl to have a right response. When young girls get pregnant, they are embarrassed, but the embarrassment should be because they have sinned and now another person (actually two persons, there's a father in there somewhere too) will share in their sin.

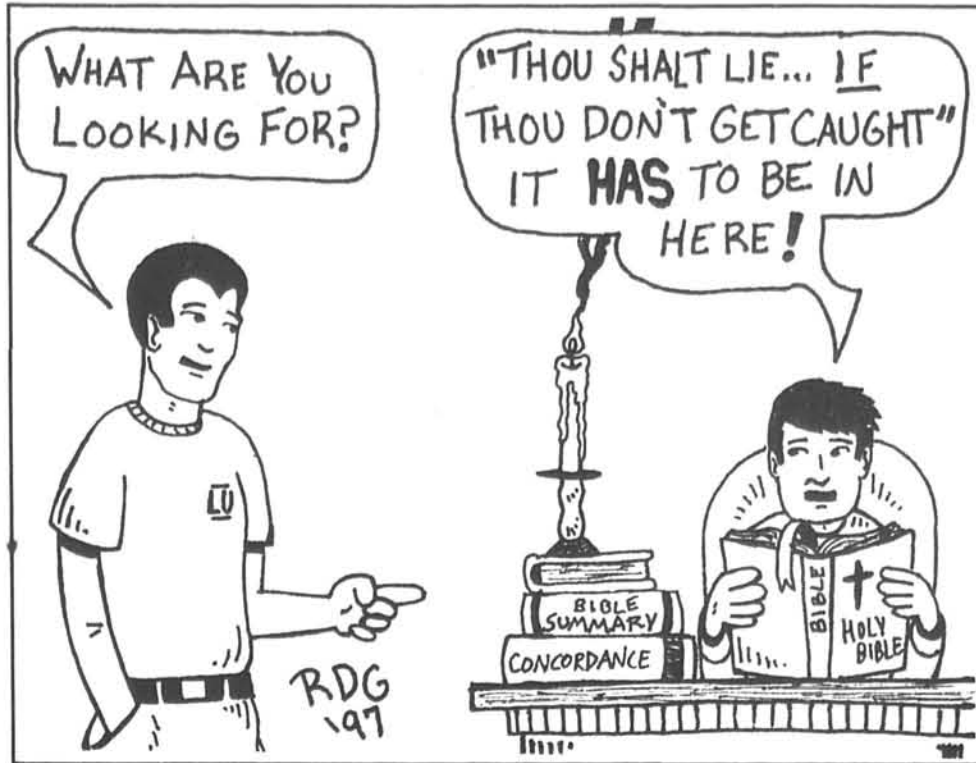
When Christians begin to focus on the sin, they become less proud. Several Liberty students in one GNED class said that they thought that people who have been convicted of crimes shouldn't be allowed to work. That is not only an unreasonable position, but it focuses on the wrong thing. Getting caught doing something illegal is no

worse than avoiding getting caught cheating on your taxes, lying on your financial aid paperwork, or even speeding (which is not only illegal but could result in the death of innocent people).

When it comes to the issue of relationships, Christians often miss the point. Christians will not only look down on someone who is living with their girlfriend or boyfriend, they will even break fellowship with them. But are these same high standards applied to Christians who divorce their spouses when the spouse has not been immoral and then remarry? The Bible calls this adultery, but how many churches censure this behavior with the same passion with which they censure the couple 'living in sin'. Aren't both couples living in sin?

Before Christians begin to criticize others they need to be clear about what the issue is. They need to search their own hearts and motives first. Are they really judging sin or simply something that defies some social convention? Inconsistencies may be an unfortunate part of the contemporary church, but the Christian who tries to witness will find that the unsaved person can spot these problems right away.

Christ said, "Judge not, that ye be not



Judged." When Christians condemn sin in others' lives, but tolerate it in their own, the opportunity for a good witness is lost.

In addition, when Christians focus on

the real issue, they're often surprised. They often find that sinners aren't "those people out there," but rather are the ones they see in the mirror every morning.

Military is not a social laboratory

By SUZIE FULKS
Champion Editorialist

Let's get something straight; the military falls into which department of the United States government? Yes, the Department of Defense. But today, it seems that the military is turning into what might be better considered the Dating Game gone awry.

What's happening, you ask? A lot, according to all the sexual assault accusations being brought by female soldiers.

It seems this fraternization is causing more havoc in the Department of Defense than a war would.

The Army has published a booklet explaining the rules of fraternizing, called "Relationships Between Soldiers of Different Rank." Also, the Uniform Code of the Military Justice makes adultery a felony.

What could be done to prevent this? The Army has many problems, especially during overseas deployment where 420,000 men and 70,000 women live in tents on the same field. Even the Navy expects 10 percent of the women in combat ship jobs to return home pregnant.

What do they really expect when men and women are shoved together like this? It is only getting worse. More cases are surfacing including adultery, where officers of higher command are having sexual relations with petty officers, consensual or not.

The recent Tailhook scandal in the Navy brought this dilemma to light. At least 26 women accused as many as 70 officers of sexual assault at a convention in Las Vegas. Recently, the first female bomber pilot of the U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, has been charged with adultery with an enlisted man, fraternization, conduct unbecoming an officer

and making a false official statement. A conviction on these counts could result in removal from the Air Force, fines and possibly a jail sentence. She will be court-martialed next month.

Virginia lawyer Mike Powell, who has handled many cases regarding sexual misconduct, believes this is a dangerous trend. More and more fraternization cases are being filed, many times as a result of a relationship gone bad. What can they do to get even and destroy a promising career? Just accuse the other of sexual harassment.

Now, how can this be stopped? Very easily. Stop the enlistment of women for combat purposes. The military is not here to appease and abolish injustice toward women according to the drastic ideals of feminism. The military is here to train fighters for times of war.

John Luddy, a policy analyst, said that the military is not here "to serve as a jobs program or as a vehicle for social change." He is 100 percent correct. Don't use the military for purposes that could be detrimental to the national security of our country.

Even military training standards are being compromised. The lesser physical training standard set for women is not a good thing when the battlefield calls for the fitness of a male soldier who was trained more vigorously. According to one Marine officer, women in training exercises have their backpacks hauled to their destination by truck, while men carry their packs on foot. Isn't this a double standard? Under such training standards, will these women be able to protect their buddies out on the front? Doubtful.

Let's face it. Women are not going to be able to protect themselves in the midst of a war. For the safety of our country, let's keep women off the battlefield and restore to the military the prestige it once had. Luddy sums it up best, "Women in combat will only feminize the warrior culture of the armed forces, and thereby weaken its ability to do its job." He's right.

Beware of cults

By JEREMY PIONTEK
Champion Editorialist

In the wake of the recent mass suicide of the "Heaven's Gate" cult, people everywhere are taking a step back to re-evaluate their philosophy of life. Whether cult or Christianity, the world has begun to intensely scrutinize religion.

Several key questions come to mind when one analyzes this tragedy. For example, where does a cult begin? What is the fuel that keeps it going? These are important questions that those straits of popularity or physical lured by a cult rarely ask. After all, in order to be deceived, one must be thoroughly convinced that he is not.

Cults are characteristically centered around a person rather than a legitimate set of ideas. This person may be quite charismatic and dynamic with excellent persuasive abilities, but his or her ideas are unfounded both logically and scripturally. Still, because the leader is convincing, many are deceived into following without a question.

There is also a singular, defining characteristic of those individuals who choose to follow a cult leader. They lack personal accountability. Because they lack this responsibility, they look to another to make decisions for them. They take their leader at his word, never questioning, instead of reasoning the ideas through for themselves.

Even well-intentioned Christians sometimes fall victim to this sort of situation within a church where a pastor demands unfaltering loyalty

and scorns any inquiries regarding his interpretation of Scripture. Is this any different than any other cult?

Perhaps, as you reflect upon what has occurred in the past few weeks, you have reached the point — as have many others — where you now quip clever one-liners and poke fun at the Heaven's Gate incident. Maybe you would do well to ask yourself, "What is my poison Jell-O?"

For some, it is a superficial relationship with a boyfriend or a girlfriend, rationalized by the consequences of popularity or physical benefits gained on the side. What lasting good can come from such a relationship?

For others, it is money. The pursuit of wealth could possibly be the most universal of lures which often leads to hurt, deception and sometimes deadly conflict. Truly "the love of money is the root of all evil," as Paul wrote to Timothy.

It's still true today. For those who are controlled by alcohol, drinking could be the leader to which they pledge allegiance, even if it means following blindly over a cliff, only to fall into irreversible injury to self, and to family and others as well.

Still others will devote themselves entirely to a career or hobby; only to awake one day alone and emotionally empty.

As human beings, it is our inherent desire to find meaning in our lives. Remember to always be discerning and vigilant when confronted with the philosophies of this world. They all lead to the same place — and it's not Heaven's gate.



Liberty Forum

Stay off the trestle

Dear Editor:

Your article (April 9, "Student survives 140-foot fall from train trestle") failed to point out that two Liberty University students were breaking the law by trespassing on Norfolk Southern property.

Two signs, posted at each end of the trestle, warn: "Extremely Dangerous. No Trespassing. Private Property." Trespassing on railroad tracks in Virginia is a misdemeanor crime, and violators are subject to a fine and/or jail confinement. Norfolk Southern's police Department, along with the Amherst County Sheriff's

Department and Lynchburg City Police Department, will strictly enforce this law.

Norfolk Southern operates an average of 25 freight trains each day over this trestle. Because of their weight and speed, these trains cannot stop quickly. Their stopping distance, comparable to that of a jet or ocean liner, ranges from 3/4 mile up to 1 1/2 miles. In most cases, these trains do not run according to a fixed timetable. You cannot depend on a train coming and going at the same time each day, and trains can come from either direction at a time.

People take risks walking on railroad bridges. These bridges are made only for trains, not people. Railroad bridges do not have sidewalks. If you are on a bridge and a train approaches, you have two choices: Get hit

by the train, or jump off the bridge.

Our goal is simple: we want to save lives and prevent injuries. Please, in the interest of saving lives, tell your students to stay well away from railroad trestles and tracks.

— Steve G. Hanes
Director-Police
Norfolk Southern

God will have His way in SGA inquiry

Dear Editor:
John Hay, Abraham Lincoln's personal secretary,

said of Lincoln, "I believe the hand of God placed him where he is." My hope is that the same will be said about our next SGA president. The question is not whether we agree or disagree with the election committee's investigation or its recommendation. The central matter of importance is whether we believe in a sovereign God. If we do, this will affect the way we react to such a decision.

Personally, I agree with the decision of the election committee to investigate and fully research the dealings of the elections. There are several reasons why I agree.

First, because Colossians 3:17 states, "And whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." We should do

all our campaigning, governing and planning for the glory of God. Thank God the committee is ensuring that this was the case.

Secondly, because leaders, especially in terms of spiritual leadership, should be found blameless. It is imperative that leaders at Liberty be found and kept accountable (1 Tim. 3:10).

Finally, I agree because I feel that God has placed authority over us to wisely make decisions for us. God says He will work through authority to achieve His end.

If this is the case, even if we don't like it, God's will is still being accomplished.

Read Romans 13:1-3, Ephesians 6, and Proverbs 21:1,2.

— Alfred Thompson

SGA inquiry waste of time

Dear Editor:

Wow! What an election. Nineteen hundred students vote and only 300 votes count. This election once again places another mark on the SGA. As students we should let our voice be heard. The students voice was spoken. Jeff Coleman should be president.

— John Lowden

Thank You

The Opinion editor of the Liberty Champion would like to thank everyone who wrote letters to the Liberty Forum this year! Keep your opinions coming!



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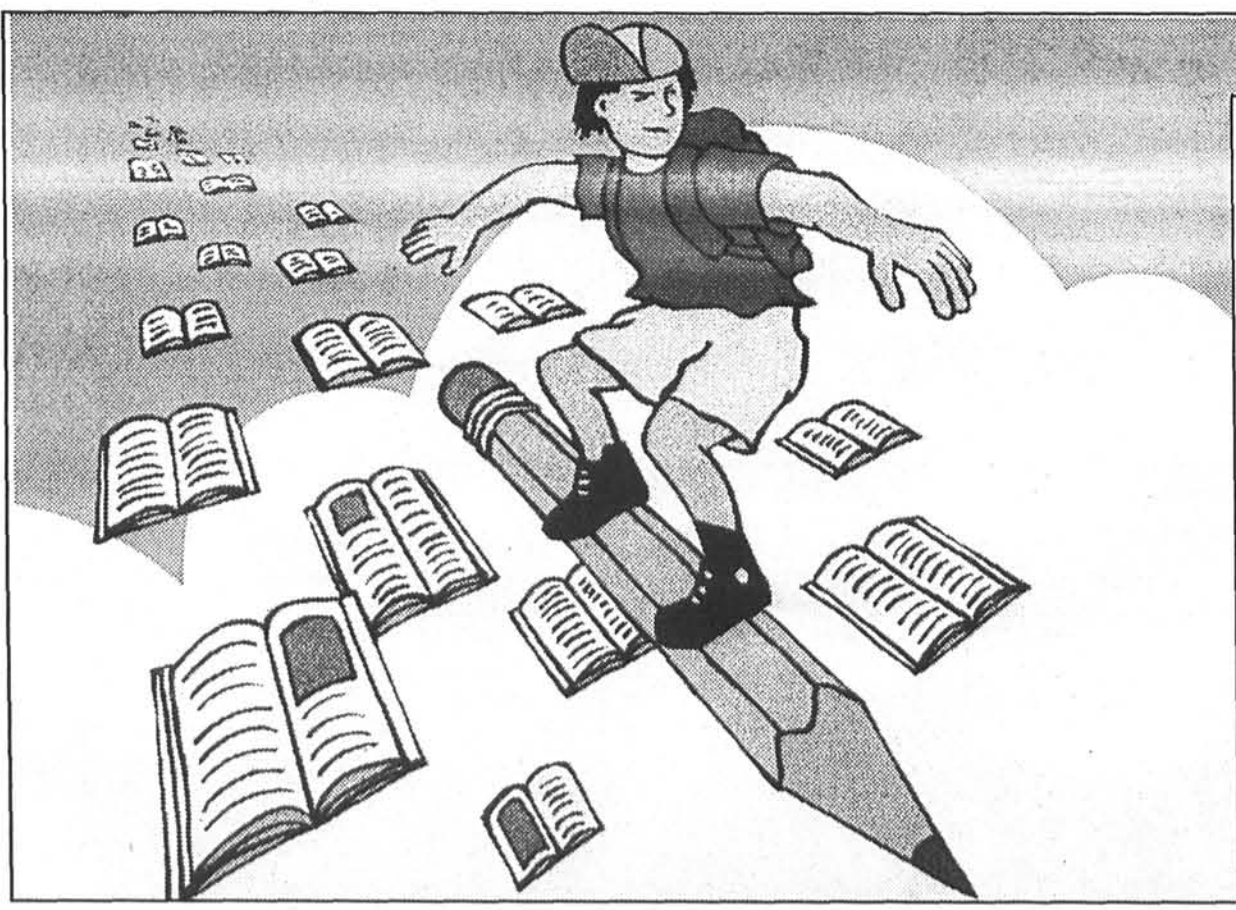
*To be eligible, you must graduate with an associate's or bachelor's degree between 10/1/95 and 1/3/98 or be currently enrolled in graduate school. You must purchase or lease your new vehicle between 1/4/97 and 1/3/98. Some customer and vehicle eligibility restrictions apply. See your dealer for details.



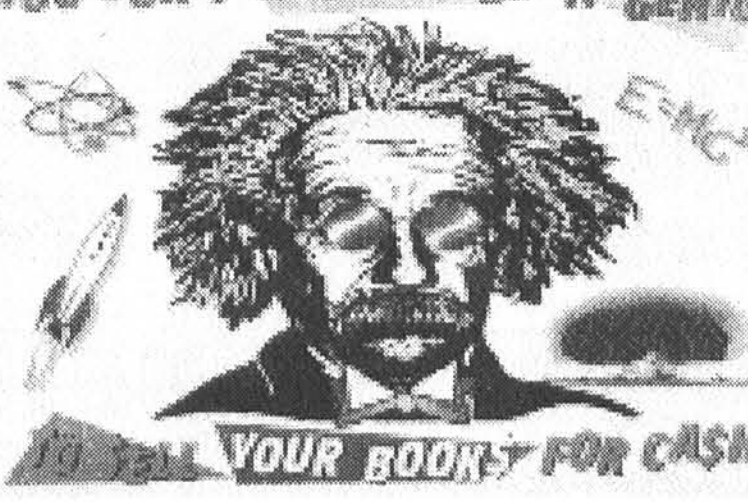
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