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OSL

Students share insight about being on leadership and ministry opportunities for this year. **B5**



FOOTBALL

SEASON PREVIEW WITH DRAFT INFO, PLAYER STATS, INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS, GAME PROJECTIONS AND MORE. **B1**

B1

LIBERTY CHAMPION

LIBERTY.EDU/CHAMPION • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 • VOL. 27 ISSUE 1

IN THE NEWS



VT HURTING AGAIN

Virginia Tech students Heidi Lynn Childs, 18, and David Lee Metzler, 19, were found shot to death in the Jefferson National Forest on Thursday, Aug. 27, according to the News and Advance. The two sophomores came from the Lynchburg area — Childs from Forest was a biochemistry major, and Metzler, a Brookville High School graduate and Campbell County resident, was an industrial and systems engineering major. Both were members of the Virginia Tech chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ. The funerals for the teens were held at Heritage Baptist Church on Monday.

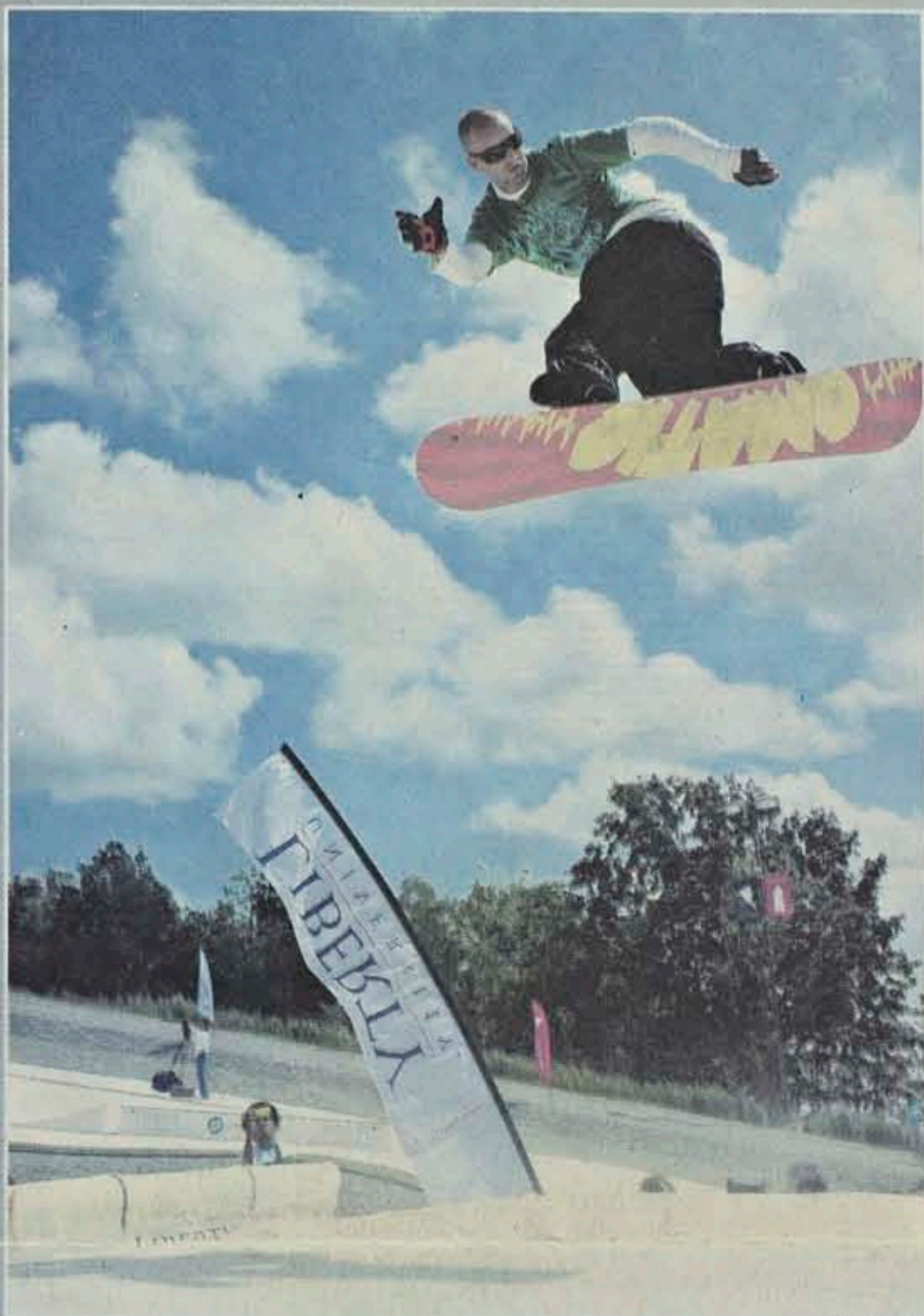
Montgomery County authorities do not currently have any suspects and believe the killing was a random act of violence, according to the News and Advance.

WILDFIRES ABLAZE

Raging wildfires in Southern California forced Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to declare a state of emergency Monday. Multiple fires throughout the state have forced 6,600 from their homes and "scorched over 134 square miles and destroyed 18 homes," according to the Wall Street Journal. The largest fire is burning a 20-mile wide swath through the countryside, dangerously close to Los Angeles. Only 5 percent of the fire was contained on Monday. Over 2,500 firefighters and 20 helicopters and air tankers have been enlisted to help combat the fires. Two firefighters Fire Capt. Tedmund Hall, 47, and Arnaldo Quinones, 35, were killed when their vehicle strayed off the road and fell over a hillside amongst the flames, according to USA Today.com.

A BUSH BACK IN THE LIMELIGHT

Former president George W. Bush's daughter Jenna Bush Hager joined NBC's "Today Show" as the station's newest correspondent, according to USA Today.com. She will use her skills as a schoolteacher to converse every month about issues such as education. Hager was approached concerning the correspondent position after Today Show Executive Producer Jim Bell saw her appear on the show twice. She will now work two part-time jobs to accommodate for the correspondent position.



ALEX TOWERS

LIBERTY MOUNTAIN SNOWFLEX

Grand opening sees large turnout from students, community and state officials

Matthew Coleman
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of students and Lynchburg locals poured into the Chalet Snow Lodge and filed out onto the synthetic slopes base to see America's first completed Snowflex on Saturday. The project took over three years of planning and development and cost \$4 million dollars, according to Construction and Planning Director Alan Askew.



ALEX TOWERS

Its all downhill from here — Thousands came on Saturday for the grand opening of the new SnowFlex facility — many from hours away.

"When I see the crowd we have today, the vendors coming out ... the fact that Snowshoe and Wintergreen are partnering with us ... and I hear the kids [and] how much they enjoy it, it does make it worth it," Director of Auxiliary Services Lee Beaumont said.

The first two hours of the event, the crowd was content with wandering the grounds, examining the

artificial snow and admiring the Chalet's interior decorations.

A wide variety of winter apparel vendors, such as Forefront, Burton and Sessions made appearances. A number of eateries appeared as well, including CiCi's Pizza, Rockstar Drinks and Smoothie King.

See SNOWFLEX on A2

How to stay healthy:

Swine Flu 101

Cat Hewett
NEWS REPORTER

With children and young adults among those who are most likely to have serious complications from the Novel H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, schools across the nation have been preparing for the worst outbreak of a virus in decades.

On Aug. 25, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said it is plausible for America's populace to suffer 30,000 to 90,000 deaths from the new strand of virus this year. Those most at risk of serious health problems from the disease are the elderly, young children, young adults and pregnant women.

Head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Thomas Frieden disagreed with Sebelius' prediction, believing the number was an exaggeration.

"Everything we've seen in the U.S. and everything we've seen around the world suggests we won't see that kind of number if the virus doesn't change," Frieden said.

See SWINE FLU on A3



with dayton king

SEW spiritual emphasis week

Annual block party features

The Afters

Amanda Sullivan
NEWS EDITOR

Liberty University's Student Activities department hosted the campus' annual Block Party event. The event is the school's way of welcoming students back to a new school year. This year, the Block Party featured several food vendors, local businesses and campus clubs. As is tradition, the party concludes with a concert followed by a display of

fireworks. This year's concert featured MIKESCHAIR and The Afters. Lead singer for The Afters Josh Havens took some time to visit with The Champion after the concert.

On getting started

We all met at a Starbucks. We used to work the morning shift at Starbucks together. I actually knew our guitar player Matt in high school, but he was a couple years ahead of me.



CHLOE MASEN

See A6 and the web for more photos!

The Afters blend a contemporary rock sound with atmospheric piano melodies. The band got its start at a local Starbucks in Texas.

see AFTERS on A6

WHAT'S INSIDE...

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SPORTS

Check out B1 for the complete story on the coming athletic facility upgrades

Nursing labs revived

Nursing department to give students real life experience

Kendra Mann
NEWS REPORTER

The opportunity for nursing students to practice in a hospital setting was enhanced this summer by expanding the nursing department to include a critical care center, a media room and a mother, baby and pediatric room.

The expansion was started May 1 and ended Aug. 1. This expansion was much needed, as the nursing department continues to grow.

"Sixty qualified freshman were turned away last semester due to the lack of space," Kathryn Miller, simulation lab coordinator, said.

"I think the expansion is necessary because nursing students are expanding and more space is needed to practice," Beverly Diaz, sophomore nursing major, said.

Rooms 2056 and 2057 on the second floor of DeMoss have been renovated and transformed into the Critical Care Center (CCC). The purpose of the CCC is to provide a realistic atmosphere for the nursing students and a place where they will achieve more than just book knowledge by "learning bedside wisdom," Miller said. "There is a big difference."

"I'll probably get more hands-on experience than just lectures," Diaz said.

The CCC includes three beds and equipment a normal hospital setting would include.

"(The equipment) helps with the simulation of patients that are in dire need of help," Bill Maitland, planner and coordinator, said.

The department also added a mannequin called a SimMan to the list of new equipment, bringing the departments total to two. The mannequins are used in the CCC to make the lab

more realistic. The SimMans are computer-controlled by a lab instructor who creates a life-and-death crisis similar to what a nursing student would face in real life.

"The SimMan lives or dies based on the performance of the student," Kathryn Miller said.

Lazarus, as one of the SimMans is called, test the nursing candidates real world skills by running out of oxygen, causing his tongue to swell.

A computer screen next to Lazarus' bed will beep and the lines showing his oxygen level vibrate faster on the screen. As Lazarus starts to choke, the student must perform procedures properly or Lazarus will die.

A media room has also been added to the nursing department. The media room includes four separate bays complete with chairs and a TV monitor. Each station is separated by a wall.

All of the nursing media is on hard drive and is watched in the media room instead of in a classroom setting. Students may approach the check-in desk and request the video segment he or she wishes to watch, and the lab assistant will send the segment to the student's bay.

The reason for the change is so that sensitive matter can be watched individually instead of in a mixed setting, according to Miller.

Room 2056 on the second floor of DeMoss was expanded and turned into the mother, baby and pediatric room. The room is designed to train students on how to deliver babies and is separated into three sections: birthing, post-partum and the baby nursery.

Two mannequins are used in the mother, baby and pediatric



PHOTOS BY ELI OVERBEY

room. One birthing Gaumard mannequin named Noel was upgraded this summer and now has "a fetal heart tone so that the baby's heart beat can be heard," Miller said.

The second mannequin is called Gabriel, is special because it is a sick baby that can even cough and sneeze. Gabriel's crib is isolated like it would be in a hospital.

Contact Kendra Mann at kmann2@liberty.edu.

SNOWFLEX continued from A1

Held up in ready-made tents, they sold merchandise and gave away prizes.

Before the main events began, Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. spoke to the crowd and thanked the Snowflex's primary donor, Jay Stein, for his invaluable contribution. He then turned the microphone over to the Snowflex's founder and creator Brian Thomas.

"I am very honored to be here," Thomas said. "This is undoubtedly the most exciting moment for our business, the launch of the Liberty Snowflex Centre."

Circling 4,500 feet in the air, professional skydiver Jim McCormick jumped out of an airplane, immediately deployed his parachute and began his falling toward Liberty Mountain at 35 mph. With smoker canisters attached to his ankles, he spiraled through the air, performing aerial acrobatics while leaving trails of smoke in the air to mark his fall.

As McCormick made his approach, the speakers blasted the James Bond theme song. The crowd cheered in adoration as he landed safely on the hillside, slapped on a pair of skis and raced down the slope.

Next came the professional ski and snowboarders. Strapped in and fired up, the two American teams and the two teams from the United Kingdom made their way up the ski lift and onto the run.

One after another they slid down the slope, flew off the jump and performed an aerial trick before landing. The crowd met each spectacle with applause.

"Honestly, the crowd is what made it," professional snowboarder Jake Black said.

"(The Show) was really good and there were

a lot of people," professional snowboarder Joshua Benedict Stock said. "I don't usually ride in front of that many people, so there were some butterflies."

"(The show) was awesome. Lots of good tricks and some awesome talent," senior Andrew Bailey said.

After the professionals were done, Falwell donned his skis and glided down the run in a red, plaid shirt and no ski poles for support. Smiling the whole way, he made it down without any complications.

The events were cut short due to bad weather, and most of the vendors packed up and left. Still, the day was viewed as a success.

"I thought it was an awesome day," freshman Nolan Buss said. "It was a great opening, great weather, the snowboarders brought it, the skiers brought it. (That) double front flip was amazing. It takes a lot of guts to do the things they were doing."

"We often say that if it is Christian it ought to be better, and there is no place like (Snowflex) in America," Moore said. "Just like there is no place like Liberty in the whole world. This is an exciting place."

While Snowflex is fully operational, it has not reached completion, according to Askew. Phase two is set to begin shortly and will extend the runs to the hill's peak, widen some of the existing runs, and create a run specifically for tube sledding. A sliding sidewalk lift will also be added in addition to the lift already in place.

Contact Matthew Coleman at mcolemam@liberty.edu.



ALEX TOWERS

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CHRIS MABES



SWINE FLU continued

Dr. Richard Lane of Light Medical diagnosed seven cases of the virus within the first week of classes.

"Most of the cases are off campus, but we have moved some (on-campus students) to the Lynchburg Inn," Lane said.

The quarantine rooms in the Lynchburg Inn are not the only safety precautions that Liberty has taken. The university added more hand sanitizer dispensers around campus and ill students Resident Assistants (RA) can get a "sick tray" from the dining hall that the student's will pick up.

The best way to keep from getting sick is to use a sleeve or shoulder to cover coughs instead of hands, wash hands often, carry sanitizer, keep rooms clean and get adequate sleep, according to Lane.

Students should seek immediate medical attention at the first sign of the flu and not go to classes until the fever is gone because the likelihood of further contamination is much higher with a fever.

The CDC's Web site lists the symptoms of the virus as "fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue." Many people also have diarrhea and vomiting due to the illness.

"It literally feels like you have been run over by a Mack truck," Lane said.

Both the seasonal flu and the Novel H1N1 virus uniquely affect the respiratory tract

as opposed to other illnesses, such as the stomach flu.

The newness of the strain of H1N1 is what makes it especially dangerous. There are rare flu cases when an uncommon form of the sickness is able to bind onto a human cell and the viruses mutate. The virus and the cell "mix and match into a new one," Professor of Biology Dr. Randall Hubbard said.

The reason why so many people get infected with the H1N1 virus is because people have "not been exposed to the antigens before," Hubbard said. However, he is not too concerned with the new strain.

Lane said that anti-viral medicines usually worked on the new strain within 24 hours and those medications should continue to be effective until the arrival of the H1N1 vaccine in mid-October.

Lane was hoping to have 20,000 vaccines available to Liberty students, but because of production shortages, only 8,000 vaccines will be heading to central Virginia. The vaccines will be available to the public in order from the highest risk to lowest. Pregnant women will receive the vaccine first, followed by young children, then medical personnel and young adults with chronic respiratory conditions.

For more information about the vaccine, visit Liberty.edu.

Contact Cat Hewett at chewett@liberty.edu.

A NIGHT FILLED WITH PRAYER

The Office of Student Leadership (OSL) hosted the annual All Night of Prayer event Aug. 28. The first weekend of every new school year is slated as a time of prayer for the student body. The event is not a required event for students, a fact that has not stopped many students from waking in the early morning hours to gather and pray.

Although the event is hosted by OSL, the Spiritual Life Directors (SLD) are responsible for the setup and teardown. The SLDs are required to set up various prayer stations to help guide students as they walk through the event. This year's stations included family, military, country, campus pastors, home pastors, personal surrender and confessions.

For more information on OSL, please see B5.

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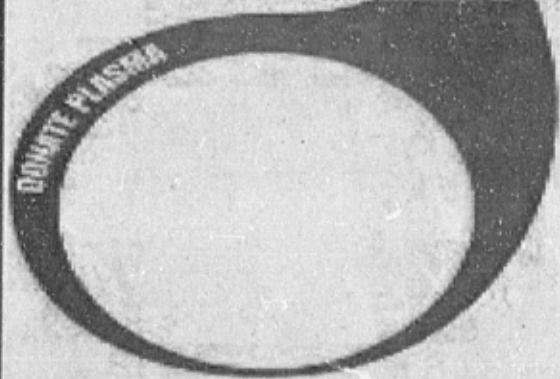
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Iran's Forgotten Revolution

By Mattison Brooks
OPINION REPORTER

If you are paying attention, you should be outraged. The headline itself is as cynical as they come, but it resonates for the state of affairs in which America and the world, as a whole, is now finding itself.

Obviously, there was a lot that happened this summer: celebrities were dropping like flies while health care and town hall meetings drove Americans back into populist-rage mode. In the middle of it all, the Middle Eastern country of Iran nearly descended into total post-election anarchy, only to emerge under the control of a more brutal dictatorship of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The Iranians involved were accused of trying to incite a "velvet revolution" — peaceful protests for the purpose of overthrowing the government, according to CNN. However, it would better be known as a forgotten revolution, because many Americans forgot it even happened.

As it stands now, over 1,000 Iranians who protested the election have been detained or arrested in a government crackdown, according to CNN. Of those 1,000, most are being put on mass trial for dissidence, reported CNN. Naturally, any country that has questioned Iran's "democracy" receives the usual "infidels meddling in our affairs will taste our wrath" nonsense. But frankly, the world seems far too busy dealing with its own problems to worry about one of the most dangerous governments on Earth.

Of course it is not hard to see why the Iranian election was forgotten. A mere two or three days into the crisis, Michael Jackson passed away. In America, the fate of a musician takes media precedence over the fate of a volatile Middle Eastern nation, which may or may not be developing a nuclear energy program — a country whose president has stated "there are no gays in Iran" and who answers to a clerical theocrat that does not believe in the Holo-



PHOTO PROVIDED

caust. That, of course, pales in comparison to Michael Jackson and his legacy. After all, he did make "Thriller."

During the initial stages of the Iranian revolution, there was a media blackout and no way for messages regarding the event to be sent out. That is, there was a block until many Iranians began recording video with their cell phones and uploading them to Facebook and "tweeting" what was happening on the streets around them.

For roughly two to three days, the national press covered what many advisers called the most tumultuous time in Iran's history since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. And all of this occurred with the world watching via Twitter and Facebook as the government began its crackdown — it all played out like any just and righteous revolution would.

But only three days after it began, Iran's technological lifeline to the rest of the world was cut because of Jackson's death, destroying the largest and possibly only means available

to getting the truth out. The media found that Jackson's death was not only more relevant to Americans, but also a great way to gain viewership. And it was right.

It is truly a tragedy. I challenge you to consciously remember the last time you saw anything regarding the Iranian election crisis. When was it talked about in the news? When was it talked about on morning television? Or worse yet, when was the last time that you wondered what happened to it at all?

Sadly, Iran's forgotten revolution is a small and recent example of what can happen with the flow of information. Staying informed is not difficult, but paying attention to the stories that matter and staying with them is not only a sign of personal wisdom — it is a civic duty. And if you are paying attention, you should be outraged.

Contact Mattison Brooks at embrook@liberty.edu.

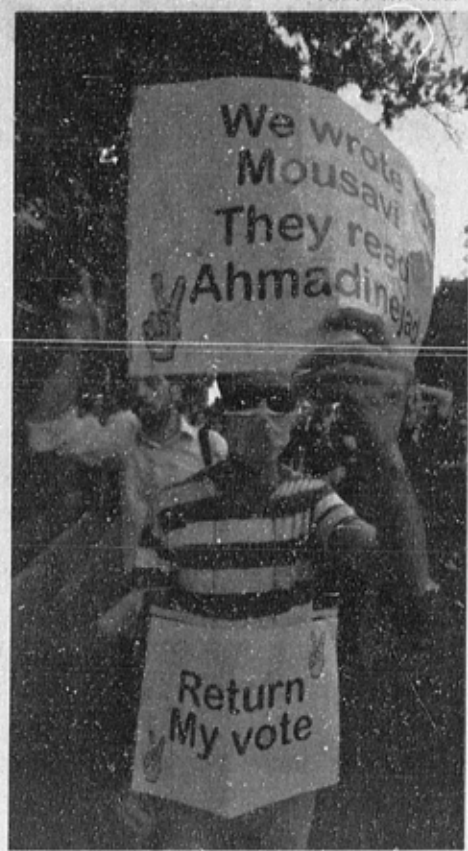


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Saving animals — one overweight person at a time

By Rachel Barker
OPINION REPORTER

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) recently embarked on a controversial ad campaign that targets overweight Americans. The recent billboard for the animal rights group had many people turning heads and voicing their opinions.

PETA recently posted the billboard in Jacksonville, Fla., according to Fox News. The advertisement features an overweight woman in a bikini with the caption "Save the whales. Lose the blubber. Go vegetarian." The billboard implies that the main cause of obesity is the consumption of meat and that vegetarianism is the solution, according to the Chicago Diets Examiner.

"Trying to hide your thunder thighs and balloon belly is no day at the beach," PETA Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman explained in a recent press release.

"Our goal was really to encourage people to live healthier lives and, of course, as an animal-rights group, to save animals at the same time," PETA spokesperson Lindsay Rajt explained in a recent interview with the United Press International.

However, the billboard presents misleading information about vegetarianism, implying it will solve all problems relating to obesity.

"Just because you go vegetarian does not mean the weight will fall off of you. Vegetarians can have just as much difficulty dropping the weight as meat eaters do," the Chicago Diets Examiner stated.

PETA's obesity ad was pulled down shortly after its construction. In its place, there is now a billboard saying, "GONE. Just Like All the Pounds Lost by People Who Go Vegetarian.

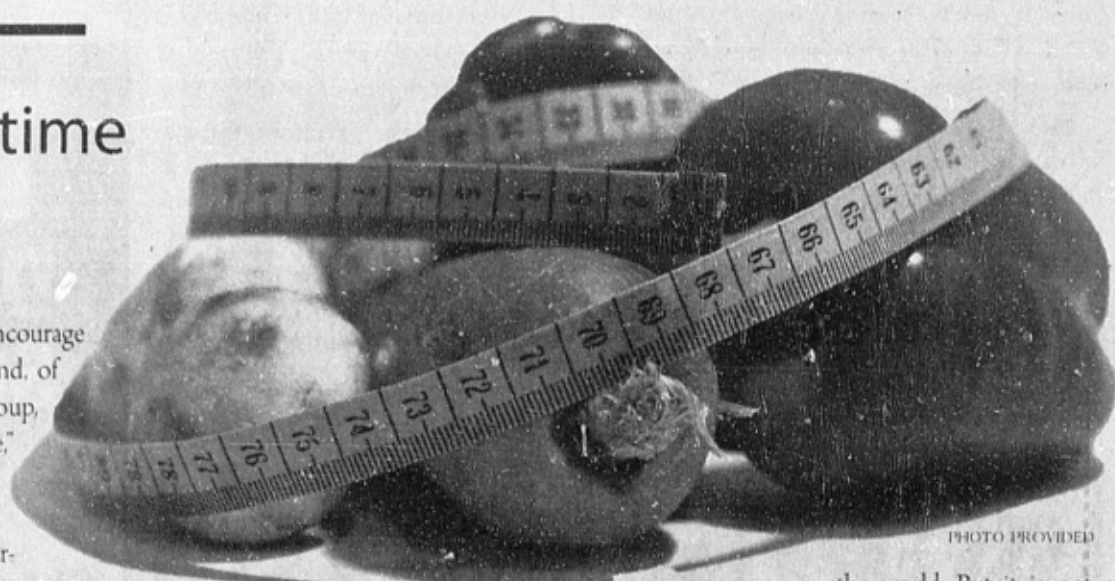


PHOTO PROVIDED

GoVeg.com," according to a PETA press release.

Even though the replacement is less offensive towards overweight individuals, PETA continues to present a misleading argument for the cause of vegetarianism — a group of people who often struggle with their weight as much as non-vegetarians, according to the Chicago Diets Examiner.

PETA has overstepped its bounds with this campaign. As seen on its Web site, PETA claims to be the largest animal rights organization in

the world. But it is not a health organization and should not use its publicity to claim otherwise. This billboard has more to do with weight loss issues than saving the lives of innocent animals. Very few, if any, whales will be saved by people embracing vegetarianism.

Contact Rachel Barker at rebarker@liberty.edu.

FROM THE DESK

Amanda Baker

The senior year of the last Jerry generation is off to a grand start this fall. As a proud member of that group, I've realized that I don't have much time left on this mountain. At the end of the semester, I'll be packing up all the stuff that I've accumulated over the last four years and heading home to the state of Washington.

However, just because I'm leaving doesn't mean I have to bemoan the fact prematurely. After talking to my quad mates

and my news editor, I've decided that a senior checklist is in order. What do I want to do before I go out into the great unknown to start my career?

I've found that I make up my list as time goes along, and it follows a strict "carpe diem" code. Seizing the day is integral when doing something new and not becoming callous to the little things in life.

One of my goals was to get up and attend the grand opening of the Snowflex on Saturday, and I have the sunburn to prove it. But 85-degree weather didn't discourage multiple news stations, professional skiers and snowboarders, Lynchburg natives, Liberty students and just the plain curious from coming to witness the opening of the first Snowflex in the United States.

Attend a Liberty-style grand opening: check.
Concerts have always been a weakness for me, and the Block Party on Saturday night was no exception. This year, however, it was extra memorable, because the sky started to empty rain all over us before The Afters rocked the stage. I got to meet the band afterward, too, and discovered that they are really genuine, down-to-earth guys.

Meet an awesome band and follow them on Twitter: check.

Whether you are a freshman, senior or somewhere in

between, I would recommend starting a checklist of things to do before you leave Liberty. Get a picture with every campus celebrity, like Ergun Caner and Jerry Jr. Go to a hockey game. Play ultimate Frisbee on the football field. Get a Milton milkshake at Drowsy Poet (this was recommended to me when I was a freshman, and I've been hooked ever since). Tell your favorite professor how much you appreciate them. Write a story for the Champion and get a byline. Play an intramural sport, or take it to the next level and participate in walk-on tryouts for basketball or the lacrosse team. Come up with an act for Coffeehouse. Get on Ninety Seconds Around Liberty. Invite a freshman in your dorm to come to a movie with you and your group of friends. Take an interesting class that has nothing to do with your major. Eat with someone you don't know at the dining hall. Learn how to snowboard on the Snowflex.

My point is, don't be apathetic while you are here. Make it a point to accomplish something, so that when you look back you will not have any regrets. Fear nothing but the un-lived life, and seize the moment for all it is worth.

Contact Amanda Baker at ambaker2@liberty.edu.

A brief economic update

By Mitchell Malcheff
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

I am happy to report that the recession is officially over. All citizens are now free to continue with their normal lives. Shut off Glenn Beck, turn down O'Reilly (What if I don't want to be in the No-Spin Zone, Bill?) and throw a recession party (I recommend cocktail shrimp, after all, you can afford it now.) Why am I so confident in this bold prediction? Because the MUI is predicted to rise next year. Shout jubilantly with me in relief, folks. The MUI is stabilizing after a record 2.3 percent decline this year.

America is back.
It's certainly taken long enough for the MUI to rebound.
By now, I should probably explain this MUI index, although all the economists reading this should be familiar with this horribly important yet vastly underrated economic indicator. Without further adieu, (that means 'waiting' in Spanish ... I think), the MUI: the men's underwear index.
Men's underwear sales have long shaped economic thought and were a key cog of the classic 1459 economic tome, "The Economy in Brief," written by the recognized master of Slovakian economics Bruges de Havilland. Even former Federal Reserve poobah Alan Greenspan touts the genius of the MUI,

(which sounds like an affectionate name for a pet cow when you sound it out). Greenspan endorsed MUI in an NPR report two years ago, according to Washington Post staffer Ylan Q. Mui.

- Still not a believer? Let me hurl three, nay, four pieces of evidence at you.
1. Sears is reporting an increase of sales in recent months, according to Mui.
 2. Target is also reporting an increase, including a rise in multi-pack sales, a key supporting indicator to which de Havilland devoted 467 pages in "The Economy in Brief."
 3. Notice the name of the Washington Post staff writer who reported this vital information. Ylan Q. Mui! Game, set, touchdown or whatever the jocks call it.
 4. I conducted a scientific poll of the first two males I ran into and they both reported no change in their buying patterns.
- Do not scoff at my findings. According to the research firm Mintel, the men's underwear industry is a nearly \$5 billion-per-year cash cow. (See how I did that? By calling it a cash cow, I made you think of MUI, which made you wish you had a pet cow. Fight the tears until I get through these last 100 words.)
- Now, I charge you all to go forth, armed with your new economic knowledge. Don't settle for a single pack. Be bold. Buy multi-packs (currently \$9.99 for a two-pack at your local

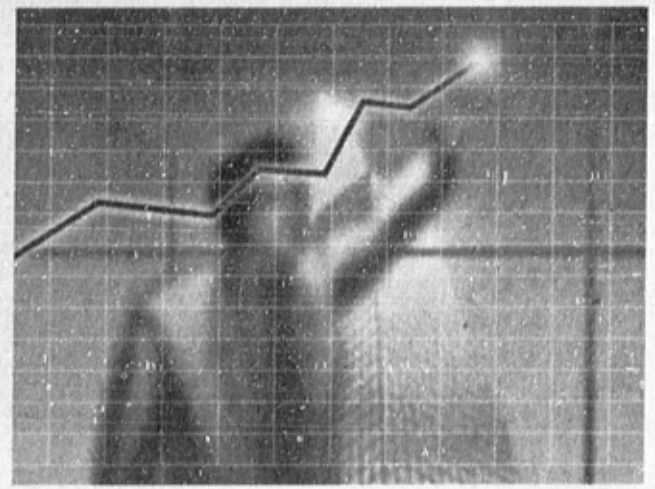


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Target), try new colors, perhaps a different style. The recession is over. Still don't believe me? Perhaps you'll believe senior researcher Michael Cohen of the NPD Group, who had this little gem to say to Mui.

"The consumers may be down, but they're not out," Cohen said. "If this were a true, deep, long, embedded recession, they wouldn't even be buying underwear."

I rest my case, legal briefs and all.

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A newfound remedy for Internet and gaming addiction

By Kweku De-Graft-Duncan
OPINION REPORTER

I recently came to the self-realization that I am a victim of video game addiction. But now for \$14,500, gamers like me will be able to break away from the addiction and check into rehab. It sounds absurd, but it is a necessary resolution.

Today, Internet and gaming addiction is real and has become an ever-present stigma among a technology-saturated generation in America. Facebook, text messaging, World of Warcraft and other technological media are taking over our society. People have become too attached to technology and need to instill some self-control and discipline.

On Aug. 27, a video game and Internet rehab center officially opened in Fall City, Wash., taking in its first 19-year-old patient who struggled with quitting World of Warcraft. The reStart Internet Addiction Recovery Program helps gamers, text messengers and Internet users kick their technological habit to the curb with a 45-day program. Similar to a 12-step program for alcoholics, the tech-junkies partake in activities such as psychotherapy, counseling, fitness programs and "high adventure outings" around the facilities, according to a news article from GameSpot.

"Anywhere from six to 10 percent of the online population is dependent on one or more aspects of cyber technology and the Internet. Among gamers, those playing multi-user games like World of Warcraft appear to be addicted at much higher levels," the facility's Web site says.

Institutions like reStart first opened in Japan, China and several countries in Europe and work to diagnose gaming addiction as a health issue. Now that reStart is here in the U.S., people who have such addictions can get help.

In October 2008, World of Warcraft exceeded 11 million subscribed players worldwide, according to Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.



PHOTO PROVIDED

In addition to that, World of Warcraft had 88,926 users playing an average of 19,188,204 minutes per day, reported Xfire, an instant messaging service and game server browser. That is almost four hours a player spends a day per person. How can anybody afford to spend that much time in an imaginary, never-ending battle against sorcerers, trolls and evil army lords?

And it gets worse.

"The cases most often cited include a South Korean man who collapsed in an Internet cafe after playing Starcraft for 50 hours; a man in China who died after playing online games for 15 days consecutively; a 13-year-old boy from Vietnam who strangled an elderly lady with a piece of rope because he want-

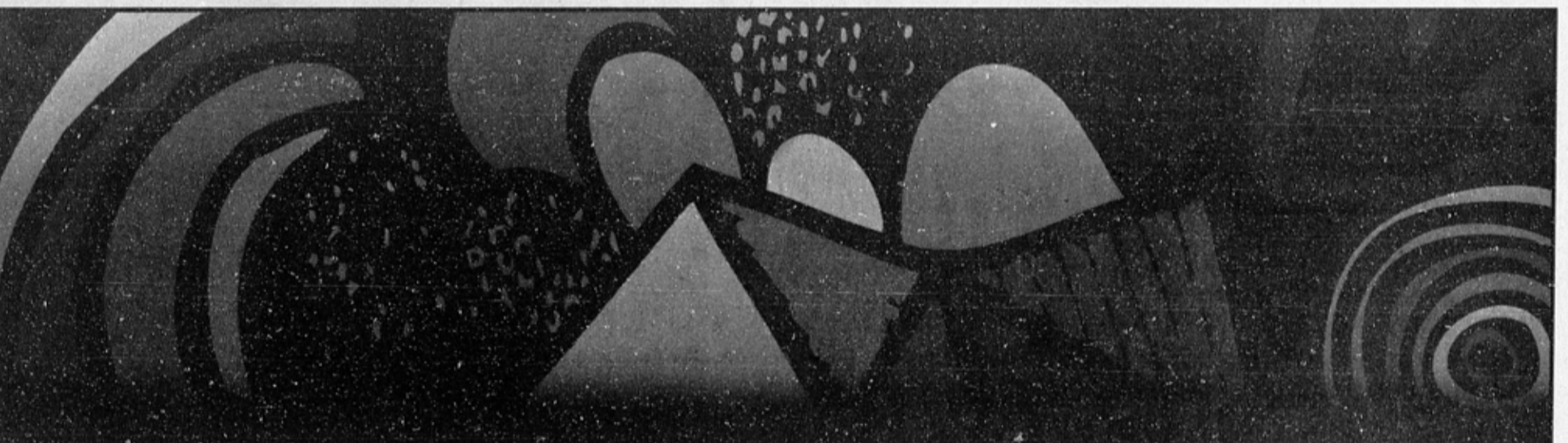
ed money to buy games; and a number of cases in the United States involving angry teenagers murdering family members over games and consoles," reported GameSpot staff writer Laura Parker in an article about game addiction.

Parker also listed more cases, including a disturbing incident about one U.S. teenager who shot his parents and killed his mother because they confiscated his copy of Halo 3 in October 2007.

Admittedly, I have fallen victim to gamer-rage, too. I vividly remember how I felt on the day my mother took away my video games. After a week in video-game withdrawal, I felt my nerves twitching agonizingly, my brain smashing itself against my head and suffocating from unbearable boredom. I literally ransacked her room trying to find my XBOX 360 — hissing "my preciousssssss" like a post-modern Lord of the Rings creature.

Ultimately, the opening of a rehab center for gaming addicts is a sign that America has taken a stand in trying to improve social and mental health. It is a step in the right direction. Individuals have a chance to break away from their dependency on the Internet and gaming. Those suffering from technology-related addictions should seriously consider checking themselves into rehab. I would follow my own advice — I just don't have \$14,500.

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LIBERTY BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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AFTERS continued from A1

He was way cooler than me. (Matt and I) started working at Starbucks together, and we became good friends. We decided to bring our guitars to work and started making up songs right there in the store. We would sing out customers drink orders. We just had fun, and people started telling us we should start a band. So we did.

On gaining popularity

Every single day that I can make music for my job, I just feel so blessed because there are so many people that never have the chance to do what they are passionate about or what the love for their job. I know that there are so many great bands out there that deserve to be doing it full time and they can't, and I just feel so fortunate every single time I can play another show.

When I was younger it was my dream to do what we're doing right now, so in one sense, I just feel really blessed.

On his favorite song from the newest album

Man, that changes all the time. Right now, I would have to say its Ocean Wide. Although, we are recording a new record, so my favorite song is actually a new song. But Ocean Wide is a really special song to me.

On their upcoming project

Right now, we are writing and recording. We go in the studio Oct. 13. It was supposed to be Oct. 12, but there's a U2 show. We can't miss U2.

We are really excited about the new song. We have been working really hard on it, and we're perfectionists. We won't stop until we feel like it's our very best. We're pretty excited to put new music out.

On his most memorable moment

You know, honestly, there was a really cool moment tonight. I'm not just saying that because we just played a show here. But I will remember playing at Liberty tonight for years to come. It rained throughout the day and stopped just as we were about to come on. The crowd was amazing. When we got to the end, we played our song "Beautiful Love" and there were fireworks. I mean, it was just a really cool moment. Everyone was really engaged. It was just one of those things that I will always remember.

As a side note, I'd always wanted to play that song with fireworks in the background. We didn't plan that. At Liberty, dreams come true.

On making it in the music industry

I once stood in line in an Audio Adrenaline concert when I was 12, and I asked them the same question. The advice I would give is the same advice I received then, and that is to stick with it. Be good at what you do, practice and stick with it because the people who give up are the ones who don't make it. Most of the bands that you see that are huge have been together for 10 years. It's not very often that a band blows up right off the bat. It takes time to build up that fan base and really connect with people. So, I say stick with it. I mean, you have to be good at what you do because if you're not good it doesn't matter how hard you try.

Contact Amanda Sullivan at amsullivan3@liberty.edu.

1. The Snowflex Centre opened for its debut weekend to students and Lynchburg locals on Aug. 29.

2. Professional snowboarders stopped by Snowflex to wow onlookers with their skills on the synthetic slope.

3. The Snowflex staff took time to stop and celebrate the establishment's opening with a photo.

4. After the onslaught of rain ceased, The Afters claimed the stage during Student Activities annual Block Party event.

5. As is tradition, the Block Party was concluded with a fireworks display.

6. This photo is a compilation of five photos to show the succession of the professional snowboarder's stunt on Snowflex.

7. The Block Party featured a variety of games and other avenues for student interaction.

8. The Afters led the audience in a series of songs, which included the band's own music, various cover songs and worship songs.

9. Students weathered the rain after a performance from LIKESCHAIR to watch The Afters perform.

PHOTOS 1-3, 5 AND 6 BY ALEX TURNER
PHOTOS 4 AND 7-9 BY CHRIS MUESS

UNIVERSITY TO GET MAKEOVER FOR WILLIAMS STADIUM, VINES CENTER

Venues revamped

Jake Petersen
SPORTS EDITOR

Greeted by loud roars and a standing ovation by students in a jam-packed Vines Center on Friday morning, Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. kicked off the 2009-2010 academic school year by unveiling plans for a completely revamped Williams Stadium and Vines Center.

Athletic Director Jeff Barber followed Falwell's announcement by giving the student body a sneak peek of the new facilities with a slideshow on the Vines video screens. The football stadium, which is expected to be ready for construction following the last home football game of the season in November, will be constructed in three phases. Phase One will be headlined by a new, 34,000 square-foot press room and increasing the number of seats to 19,200.

Four elevators will service staff, media and fans seated throughout the three stories, and the new facility also includes 16 permanent luxury seats designed for donors and Flames Club members. A 500-seat banquet facility, a 1,000-seat classroom as well as various office suites will also be constructed.

Phases Two and Three will focus on constructing even more seating around the complex, with a 4,000-seat upper deck expected to be added above the current student section and an additional horseshoe style seating area for 6,400 people behind the south end zone. New bathrooms and concession stands are expected to be added in the stadium's facelift as well.

Williams Stadium, which currently seats 12,000 fans, is expected to reach 30,000 seats at the end of Phase Three and will add "great beauty to the university," according to Barber. He noted that the long-range goal for the operation is to hold 60,000 seats and rival the facilities of Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia.

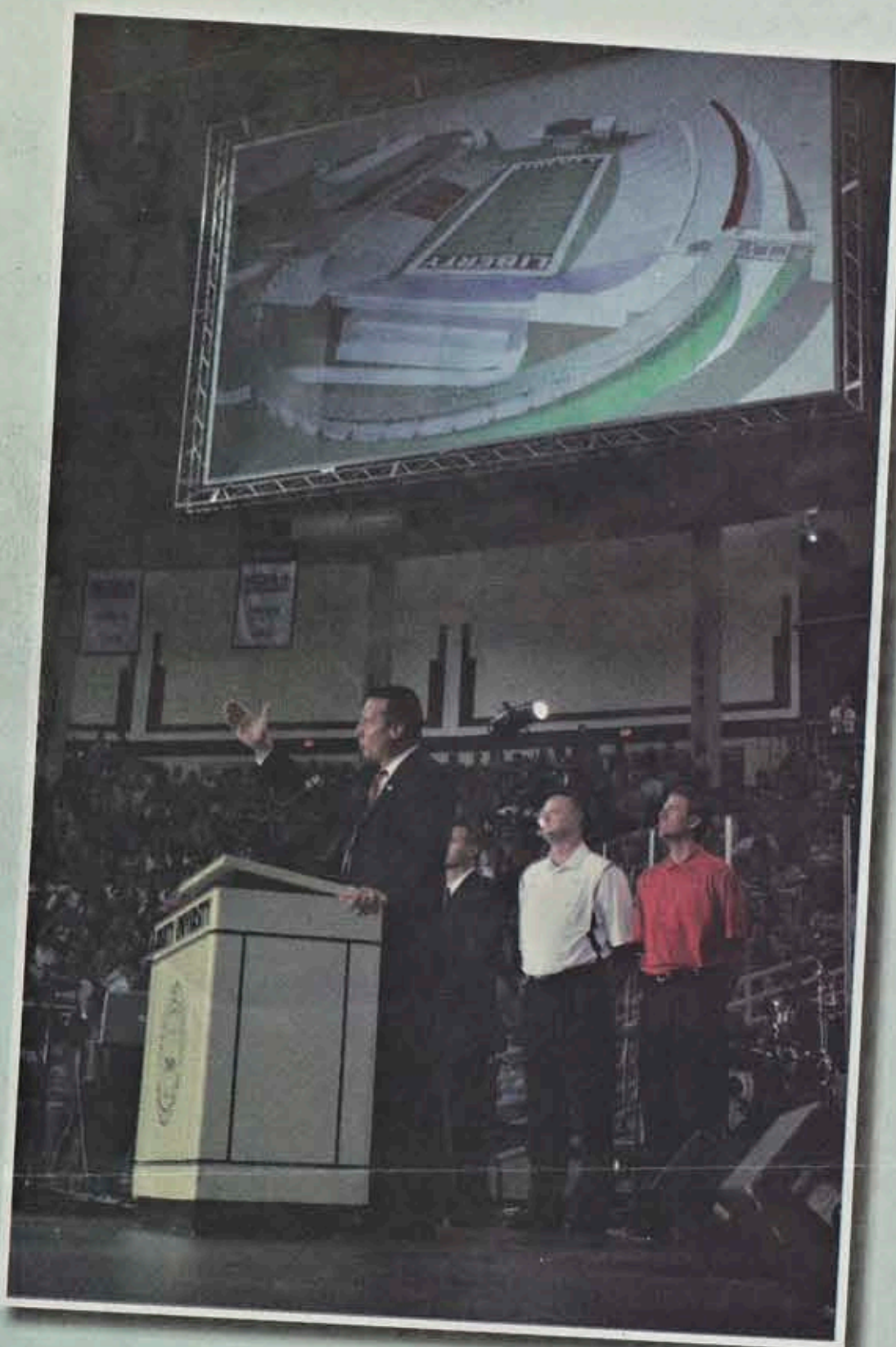
Most of the estimated \$12 million it will take to fund Phase One of this project will come through donations from the Flames Club and other University donors, Barber said. An extensive fundraising campaign is expected to be launched immediately, with bidders pledging donations for naming rights to buildings, rooms and other amenities both projects will feature. Ticket prices "may be raised a buck or two," Barber said, but will for the most part remain affordable to the general public.

Not to be left out, the Vines Center will also be undergoing a huge change in the next five to ten years. Barber announced plans to add two balcony areas in the arena holding up to 3,000 seats, with the option of potentially adding suites and club rooms underneath for Flames Club members and donors. The project is expected to extend the Vines Center's seating from its current 8,000 to 12,000 at the end of completion.

The project will also improve the exterior of the arena, giving the Vines a more modern-classical look. A Jeffersonian-style lobby with glass windows will be the first thing Flames fans will see upon approaching and entering the arena as well as a new brick facade to accompany the new look.

Head men's basketball coach Dale Layer, who enters his first season at the helm of the Flames, believes the new plans can not only help his team in recruiting new players, but also by drawing in prospective students.

"The improvements of the football stadium and the Vines Center speak volumes of what Liberty is trying to do nationally. This is a great time to be at Liberty, and when you see progress and commitment and things going forward, you want to jump on board and roll up your sleeves and get involved with it. It's a real boost to all of us," Layer said.



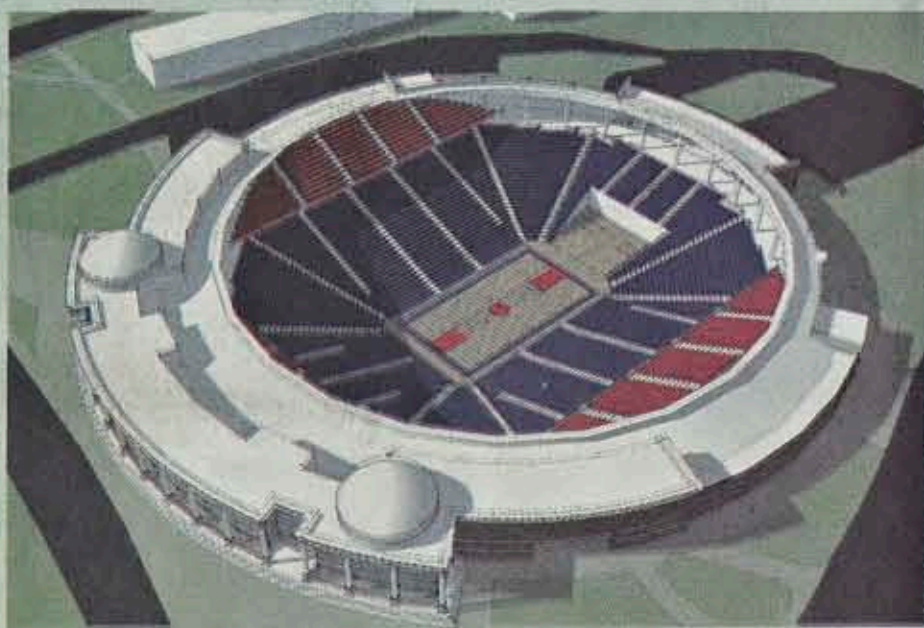
ALEX TOWERS

Leading the Charge — Athletic Director Jeff Barber announces \$12 million improvements to Liberty's athletic facilities in Convocation Friday morning. The upgrades include a state-of-the-art football press room and the construction of upper deck seating inside the Vines Center, as well as other beautification projects to both venues.

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Exterior Beauty — The Vines Center will undergo a major exterior facelift under Barber's proposed idea, with a Jeffersonian style lobby to accompany a fresh brick facade being a focal point of the construction process.



Sneak Peek — New upper deck sections (red) will add interior beauty as well as additional seats for Flames fans searching for a first-class game experience as they watch the Flames and Lady Flames in action.

Flames set for showdown with West Virginia

Jeff Scott
SPORTS REPORTER

Liberty University football has come a long way since the 2005 season in which the team went 1-10.

The addition of Coach Danny Rocco in 2006 seemed to instantly transform not only the win column, but also the entire mindset of the team. In only his first year, he led Liberty to a winning record, and most recently the first 10-win season in school history. After taking the helm in 2006, Rocco has implemented mottos that coincide with what the team's goals are and the identity of the team.

This year's theme is "Sharpening the Sword," based on the Proverbs 27:17 illustration of iron sharpening iron, as men sharpen men. Coach Rocco and company are not content with back-to-back Big South Champi-

onships, and want to make sure that the team stays sharp and focused on the task at hand.

"We are trying to be accountable, trying to be responsible with our actions. After having a 10-win season we have to make sure we maintain our edge," Rocco said. "This is not a time for complacency or to sit back on our laurels. We need to keep marching forward."

Liberty sustained losses at quarterback and running back with Brock Smith now on staff as a coach and losing Rashad Jennings to the NFL Draft. The surefire replacement for Smith is Tommy Beecher, a 6'2, 227-pound transfer from the University South Carolina. Surprisingly, at the end of last semester, Beecher was not certain he would even be suiting up for the Flames.

"I came here during the summer, I have one year of eligibility left. I originally decided

I wasn't going to play football," Beecher said. "The last two weeks of the year, I felt God called me to pursue a fifth year and it's a great situation here at Liberty."

Beecher, who played in 17 games for South Carolina over his three-year career, completed 58.8 percent of his passes and threw for 320 yards and two touchdowns. He was the Gamecocks season opening starter last year against N.C. State and Beecher understands that if he plays smart football, the team can go a long way.

"We've just got to keep moving the ball. We have a great defense, so if the offense can move the ball and protect the ball we can have a successful season," Beecher said.

Liberty's offense is loaded with talent at each position. Offensive lineman Josh Weaver, center Mario Cosby, outside guard Bryan

Mosier, tight end Will Quarles, quarterback/wide receiver Mike Brown, wide receiver B.J. Hayes and wide receiver Chris Summers all have the opportunity to lead the team to be as potent as they were a year ago.

Liberty's defense looks to remain stout as it returns a good deal of defensive players, despite losing standout linebacker Nick Hursky. Two players, Ian Childress and Wes Cheek, will look to carry the torch and bring tenacity and toughness to the frontline. Stalwarts on the defensive line include senior defensive end Trey Jacobs, Virginia Tech transfer Daryl Robertson, and 377-pound sophomore Asa Chapman.

See PREVIEW, B3.

Lady Flames begin season 1-2 at Hilton Garden Hokie Invitational

Chris McNair
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Lady Flames volleyball team went head-to-head against each other in its annual Blue-White scrimmage, officially ringing in the 2009 season last Tuesday.

Familiar faces Kallie Corbin and Nicki Scripko stood out on the court, as both showed no rust coming back from the offseason. It was Corbin's 53 assists and Scripko's 25 kills that helped the White team bounce back from a 2-1 deficit to claim a 3-2 victory.

Freshmen Loren Thomas and Erica Manor were both efficient in their attack opportunities for the Blue team. They showcased their offensive arsenals, as Thomas hit .433 with 14 kills and four blocks while Manor, who was the 2008 West Virginia State Player of the Year as a high school senior, recorded nine kills on a dozen attempts and finished with a .667 attack percentage.

On Friday, Head Coach Shane Pinder and the Lady Flames began their 2009 campaign with a 25-7 set one victory over the Spartans of UNC Greensboro in the first round of the Hilton Garden Hokie Invitational at Cassell Coliseum in Blacksburg, Va.

The Spartans scored the first points of the afternoon before Liberty took control by tallying the next 11 points, 10 of which were served by Karyl Bacon, who also added two kills and an ace in the spree. Liberty's lead ballooned to 18-2 before they sealed the 25-7 victory.

Bacon understands that she will have to step up and prove herself as a team leader along with the rest of the Lady Flame veterans.

"Now that I am a junior, there is more expected of me because of my experience and the fact that I am an upperclassman and know the game. I am expected to make more plays that are better and to score more," Bacon said.

Bacon went on to say that the team did a good job of "not getting frazzled" when the other team went on runs, and their ability to stay collected helped them throughout the tournament.

The Lady Flames next opponent was the University of Montana, marking the first matchup between the Lady Flames and the Grizzlies.

Despite winning the first game of the morning, Liberty was unable to match Montana's energy in the second game of the match, as the Grizzlies went on to claim a 3-1 victory, evening the Lady Flames record at 1-1.

The Lady Flames owned an advantage in the second game at 9-8, but a 6-1 spurt led by Whitney Hobbs (2 kills, 1 block) was all the Grizzlies needed to gain a 25-20, game two win.

Montana was able to overcome double-doubles by Bacon, Scripko, and Corbin due in large part to the play of Amy Roberts, who led the way with a match-high 16 kills.

Corbin netted a double-double that consisted of 41 assists and 11 digs, and also added six kills.

"As a team I would like to see us grab the three-peat and be the best we can be. Our team has so much fight and I want to see us harness it. There's a new feel on the court as is typical of a new year, but we know how to work together, no matter who's on the floor we have good chemistry," Corbin said.

On Saturday night the Lady Flames capped off the tournament against the host Hokies. Despite Scripko's game-high 14 kills, the Hokies were able to claim a 3-0 (25-22, 26-24, 25-18) victory over the Lady Flames.

The Lady Flames kept the score close in the first game, with neither team leading by more than three points during the opening set. They were neck-and-neck throughout the game (15 ties in the opening game) the last of which came at 22-22. Virginia Tech, however, went on to score three straight points, earning a 25-22 win.

"The stats were close, even when we were down two games to zero. We just weren't able to string together the points," Pinder said. "Virginia Tech controlled the net, which was one of their biggest advantages. The girls played hard but they have some offensive work to do, and specifically their blocking, but again the girls gave a great effort."

After the game, Corbin was voted to the all-tournament team, after netting 34 assists, five digs, and a trio of blocks against Virginia Tech.

Liberty will be hosting the Liberty Invitational presented by Pepsi, which is scheduled to begin on Friday and Saturday. The Lady Flames will commence their 2009 home schedule with a 7 p.m. game against East Tennessee State on Friday inside the Vines Center.

Contact Chris McNair
at cjmcnair@libertyedu.



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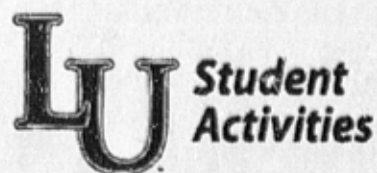


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CHRIS MAHES

Running Uphill — The Flames will face a tough task in their first game as they head to Morgantown, W.V. for a Saturday showdown with the Mountaineers from West Virginia University.

Preview Continued from B1

Starting at defensive back for the Flames is a familiar face. Chris Rocco, Coach Rocco's nephew, is a product of Liberty Christian Academy and has enjoyed a successful career since joining the Flames.

"It's a different atmosphere, but it prepared, me well," Rocco explained. "Football-wise, my dad and my uncle are pretty similar in their coaching styles. We actually ran a simplified version of Liberty's defense at LCA so it made the transition a little bit smoother (than) if it had been at somewhere else."

Rocco believes that if they continue to work hard, this could be the best defense that Liberty has ever seen.

"I think we have a chance to be as good as we've ever been on defense but we have to play with the intensity and focus that we have at the peaks of our play in the past. So it's really up to us how good we are going to be."

There is plenty to look forward to in the 2009 season, including upgrades to Williams Stadium and the Williams Football Operation Center, highlighted by the new high definition video/scoreboard to be in place by the first home game of the season.

There will be loads of exciting football to watch this season, starting with a season opening clash at Big East powerhouse West Virginia (Sept. 5), and an in-state, Hall of Fame weekend battle against the Dukes of James Madison at Williams Stadium (Sept. 25) and the in conference battles in the Big South. The Flames open up their home schedule on Sept. 12 against North Carolina Central at 7 p.m.

Contact Jeff Scott at jdscott@liberty.edu.

New face, new place: Beecher named starting QB

Peter Sawyer
SPORTS REPORTER

Tommy Beecher entered this season with a lot of uncertainty. He was certain about his decision to transfer to Liberty but was unsure of what his role would be on a new football team to which the former University of South Carolina quarterback was not accustomed. However, Coach Danny Rocco has confidence Beecher as his starting quarterback when the Flames travel to Morgantown, W.Va. on Saturday for a matchup with Big East member West Virginia.

Beecher may not be very familiar to many people around campus but he made it an effort to be known on the football team.

"Before camp started Tommy was one of the guys. When camps started he was a familiar face. Everyone has embraced Tommy for who he is," Rocco said. "What they're seeing in Tommy is commitment and effort. They're supportive of that. Tommy is here to work hard and compete."

Beecher, who is a student at Liberty Theological Seminary and was given a fifth year of eligibility by the NCAA, has been more than impressed with Liberty thus far, both on and off the field.

"The coaching staff is incredible. I've met

a lot of great guys, especially Mike Brown," Beecher said. "My classes have been great, opening classes with prayer is a little different, and I'm looking forward to growing with everybody."

"I've been extremely impressed. The weight room here is just as big as the one we had in South Carolina," Beecher continued. "I hear the fans are great and I'm looking forward to seeing them out there."

Rocco said that when Beecher finished his season at the University of South Carolina he prayed about his future. Beecher comes from a very spiritual family, and it was his mother who told him God had something else for him in football.

Ironically, it was Beecher who first contacted Liberty, but Rocco said he was quick to initiate recruitment. Rocco said that there were other players he was considering bringing in, but that Beecher was the most attractive prospect. Beecher's maturity and big game experience were the deciding factors in Beecher's position as starter.

"This turned out to be a perfect fit," Rocco said. "He's got poise. He can make decisions and doesn't panic. I really only wanted a guy for one year. Brock Smith was basically the

starter for me in every game I coached. Tommy gave us the buffer, that one year buffer."

The one-year buffer Rocco is alluding to is for the highly talented quarterback waiting in the wings to take over the Flames offense: Mike Brown. Rocco feels Brown might need another year before he takes over the reins of the Flames offense, but he does see Brown playing an integral part of the offense. He plans to play Brown as a wide receiver, giving Beecher a viable threat to throw to during every offensive series.

"Mike is a big time playmaker," Beecher said. "Our offense is full of playmakers; my job is to get the ball to them and let them make plays."

Rocco feels giving Brown another year to further acclimate himself to the Flames offense as a wide receiver and learn under the tutelage of an experienced quarterback can only help.

"Mike is the quarterback of the future," Rocco said. "He is so valuable in what we do here and it gives us the best possible lineup we could have with them both in the game at once."

With Rashad Jennings and Brock Smith no longer playing for the Flames, many fans have wondered about the team's offensive strength. Beecher and Brown hope to lead the way, forming a dynamic duo that will ignite the

Flames offense. B.J. Hayes will be able to start at running back with Brown at the receiver position. With the starting positions established, the players know their roles heading into Saturday's game at West Virginia.

Beecher has made a smooth transition coming from the University of South Carolina to play for the Flames, and he remains focused on splitting his time with football and his studies as a seminary student.

"Football is football," said Beecher, "I'm here for football first and foremost, the seminary is a bonus. I came here to get into the playoffs."

There is an element of preparation that goes into being a starter, and in order to start the first game of the season Beecher had to prove himself through the spring and summer. Rocco wants to start a quarterback who is battle tested and Beecher is proving himself to fit the mold. Saturday's game marks the beginning of the battle, and only time will tell if Beecher's dream of getting to the playoffs will become a reality.

*Jake Petersen and Jordan LoSasso contributed to this report.
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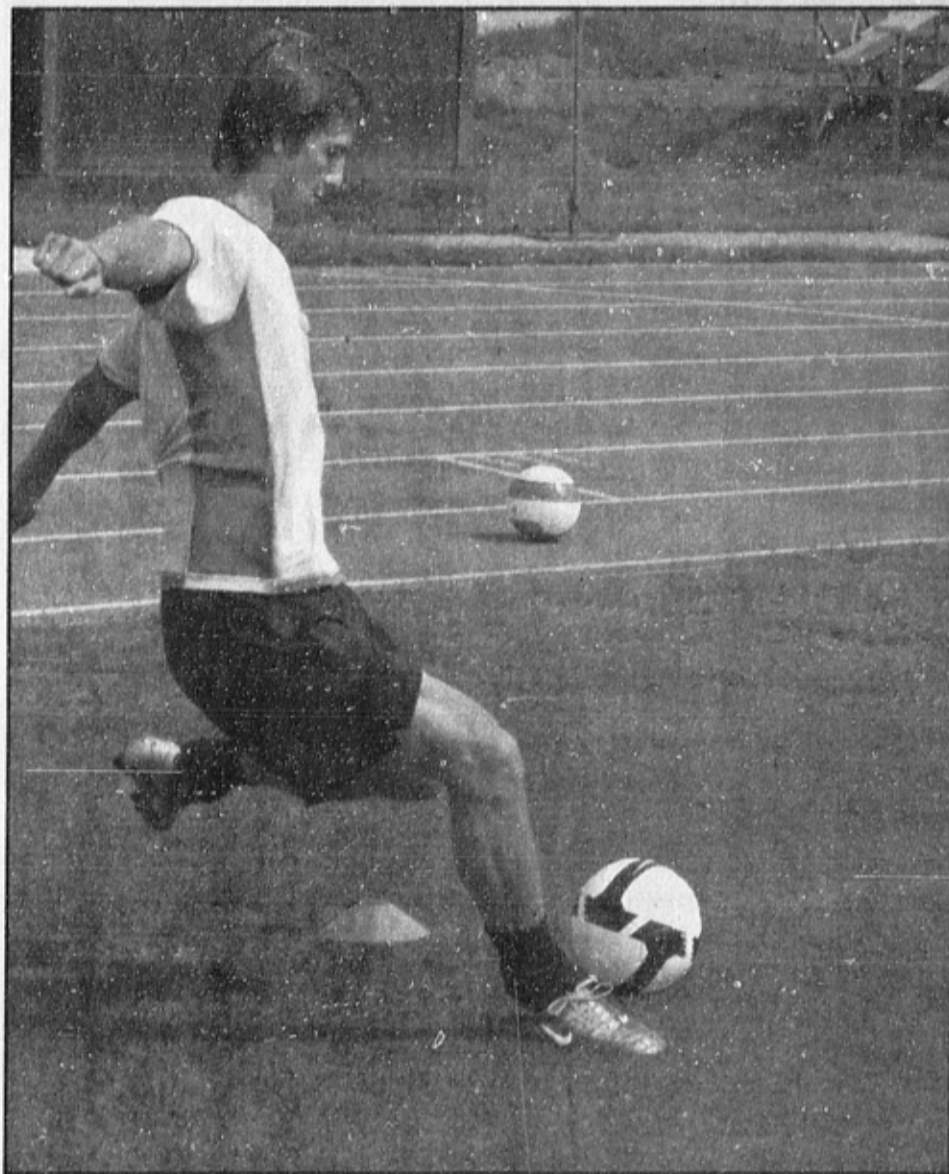
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Flames look to get back on track against Concord



Homeward Bound — With two away games under their belt, the Flames finally return home to play against Concord Tuesday night.

Brittany Barclay
SPORTS REPORTER

After ending last season on an eight-game winning streak, the Liberty Flames men's soccer team could not be more motivated in preparation for the 2009 season.

Starting with tough road games against two top-25 ranked teams, Wake Forest and William and Mary, Head Coach Jeff Alder feels that the team is well prepared to have another excellent season.

"They did a fantastic job in preparing themselves. I think our guys are better prepared this year coming into preseason than they've ever been," Alder said.

The team started official practice Aug. 15, leaving them a mere six days to shake off the rust before facing a dominating Wake Forest team that is ranked No. 5 in the nation.

"Right away, through summer and pre-season training, we had the players' attention because we were starting off against such a tough team," Alder said.

Although the Flames fell short with a 2-0 loss, Liberty remained close until the last 10 minutes when Wake Forest scored, clinching the win.

Liberty was not outmatched in a defensive struggle against William and Mary in its next game. The game ended in a tie.

"Playing teams of this stature so early in the season can only work to our benefit in that we know what we are up against and what we are striving to be," Alder said.

The Liberty Flames are not just prepared for the season physically, but also are trained spiritually.

"We have a great group of men who really understand what we're trying to do in terms of taking Dr. Falwell's vision and trying to multiply that and use soccer as our tool to further the kingdom," Alder said.

"Our goal, like all other teams, is to be the best that we can be, and prove we are a force to be reckoned with. The difference is that we want to show everyone what can be accomplished with God on our side."

As the Flames continue to face more formidable opponents, the team relies on more than just themselves to remain competitive.

"I don't want to sound cliché, but the fans really do make all the difference," Alder said.

To accommodate fans, the construction of a bigger stadium is under way, which will provide more seating and a better game day experience for all Flames soccer fans. Mid-September is the tentative completion date, according to Alder.

The Flames are scheduled to hold their first regular season game on Sept. 1 at home against Concord, and will also play games against North Carolina and Winthrop University.

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COMMENTARY

Giving Vick a (dog)fighting chance

Jordan LoSasso
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The grotesque details of the indictment for bankrolling a dogfighting ring were released, and I jumped on the bandwagon to punish Michael Vick not only to the fullest extent of the law, but to never allow him to be a participating member of society or the NFL again—no second chances.

However, when Vick sat at the podium during his Philadelphia Eagles introductory news conference between Eagles Head Coach Andy Reid and life mentor Tony Dungy I could not help but root for Vick and lobby for others to support not just Vick, but second chances. Second chances are what Christianity is built on, and second chances are given as long as remorse and sincerity are part of the equation.

Vick sounded truly sincere, remorseful and humbled during the news conference. Though his past involvement with the Bad Newz Kennels was sickening, the Vick on the podium seemed mentally reformed, healthy and cleansed.

"I know I've done some terrible things, made a horrible mistake. Now I want to be part of the solution and not the problem," Vick said. "We all used the excuse that dogfighting was part of our culture. I don't use it as an excuse now. I went to prison and had plenty of time to think about what I did wrong."

Not only did Vick serve 18 months in federal prison, but he lost his job, lost the privilege that comes with being the greatest athlete in the NFL and fell into financial ruin, despite being the highest paid player in the

NFL before serving time.

Vick has incurred estimated financial losses of \$142 million, including \$71 million in Atlanta Falcons salary, \$50 million in endorsement income and nearly \$20 million in previously paid bonuses, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

To say Vick got his job back when he signed with the Philadelphia Eagles is inaccurate. To go from the starting quarterback and highest paid player in the league to an intermittently used utility player is like going from CEO to coffee-fetching intern.

With millions of Americans ready to execute him, even after losing everything, Vick needed a person with a strong foundation to help reform his life properly, assist him in making a successful transition after prison and help him reclaim a glimpse of the talent he displayed just a couple of years ago.

Dungy, a man with a foundation in Christ, changed the dynamic of the situation abruptly when he decided to mentor Vick.

Dungy has been labeled among the classiest members of the NFL and is a professing Christian. He is not one of those that thank God after winning a Grammy or Oscar. He gives credit to his Savior for every blessing in his life, and in almost every public appearance he makes. He wrote two books focused on Christ guiding his life through the successes and tragedies.

Dungy is one of the few role models of professional sports that children can call their hero and parents support their choice. If he says Vick is on the right path, has suffered enough

and deserves a second chance, I feel obligated to listen.

"I really got the sense he wanted to do some great things. He wanted to be a positive role model for young people. He wanted to get back to his family. In Leavenworth, I asked him where the Lord was in all of this. He felt he needed to turn back to the Lord, and that's when I felt it was going in the right direction for him," Dungy said.

My concern is not focused on his past, but on staying away from trouble in the future, although it sounds like he genuinely learned his lesson.

"I'm conscious of the fact I was wrong, and I'll have to deal with that shame and embarrassment the rest of my life. I committed an act that was cruel, unethical and inhumane, but I've paid my debt to society," Vick said. "I can't explain how deeply I hurt and how I cried. I had to explain to my three kids that it was daddy's fault. I asked them for a chance to be a better father, to do the right things and show them that I can help young individuals from going down the same path I did."

Vick appeared in his first game in over two years Thursday. The game was marked by his effective play, an elated smile and a shockingly warming ovation from Philadelphia fans when he entered the game.

"Everyone deserves a second chance. As long as we're willing to do it the right way, we all deserve it. But I realize I get only one shot at a second chance," Vick said. "My actions will speak louder than words, and I'll be proactive within the community. People will see that in due time. I have to make a lot of people into a believer in me."

Contact Jordan LoSasso at jlosasso@liberty.edu.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE SET TO LAUNCH

Daniel Martinez
SPORTS REPORTER

Lacrosse is bursting onto the Liberty University sports scene this year. Starting with the Sept. 9-11 tryouts, Liberty's newest Division-I program is looking to make an impact with a competitive first season.

According to Tatyana Gomez of the Liberty Recreation Sports Department, women's lacrosse has been a club sport for four years, so the sight of girls in gloves and goggles charging across the campus intramural fields is not uncommon to the university. With the open tryout expected to collect a team of those interested, Liberty is adding the new program and hoping to spark excitement in the student body.

"It's a fast-paced game of speed and finesse," Assistant Coach Jen Venter said.

"Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country," Head Coach Regan Denham said.

While the goalies wear precautionary pads and there is a great deal of slicing, and lunging with sticks, women's lacrosse is not the contact sport the men's version is.

"They say lacrosse is the fastest sport on two feet, so you need speed and athleticism to keep up and good stick skills to handle the ball," Venter said.

Denham said the focus for Liberty women's lacrosse 2009-2010 is to establish a team and focus on recruiting for next year. The tryouts are looking to fill the team roster (25-30 players) with good athletes, although experience is not necessarily a prerequisite.

The team will be playing teams in the National Lacrosse Conference, which includes teams from Howard, Longwood and Jacksonville Universities and Presbyterian and Davidson Colleges.

The new team will be in good hands under Denham, who has played lacrosse since seventh grade (including a tenure at Messiah College, where she set eight school records) and has served as head coach at Missouri Baptist University and Springfield College.

"It's really exciting to have a (team) because we are currently the only evangelical university with Division-I lacrosse," Denham said.

Conference championships will take place in May, and Liberty is slated to be an automatic qualifier for the NCAA tournament in 2012.

Contact Daniel Martinez at dpmartinez@liberty.edu.



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Sun for Life

Student leadership starts off the new semester

Amanda Sullivan
NEWS EDITOR

A sea of students clad in bright red shirts filled the Schilling Center the week before classes started at Liberty University. The gathered students represented a section of Liberty devoted to the spiritual development of every student on campus, which is headed by the Office of Student Leadership (OSL). The students form the 2009-2010 student leadership team.

The student leadership team is made up of 26 Resident Directors (RD), 226 Resident Assistants (RA), 226 Spiritual Life Directors (SLD) and 1,000 Prayer Leaders (PL). The students are dispersed throughout the campus on various halls. OSL's desire is to have every student ministered to on campus, according to Campus Pastor and Vice President of Spiritual Development Dwayne Carson. Each student leader is responsible for five students on their hall.

OSL expects the students who are in leadership to uphold the Liberty Way, Liberty's code of ethics and Christian principles.

"I want our student leaders to be an example of following the Lord. I want our student leaders to be quick to serve and assist students as they face needs and sometimes a crisis in their lives," Carson said. "I want every student to be loved as well as prayed for daily. I want students to know there are other students who care for them."

Carson also expects his student leaders to help other students mature spiritually.

"When it comes to discipleship, I want us to focus this year on developing values. Part of the mission statement of Liberty is to develop students with the values to impact tomorrow's world," he said. "I want to lead our students to establish clear-cut biblical values that will guide them for life."

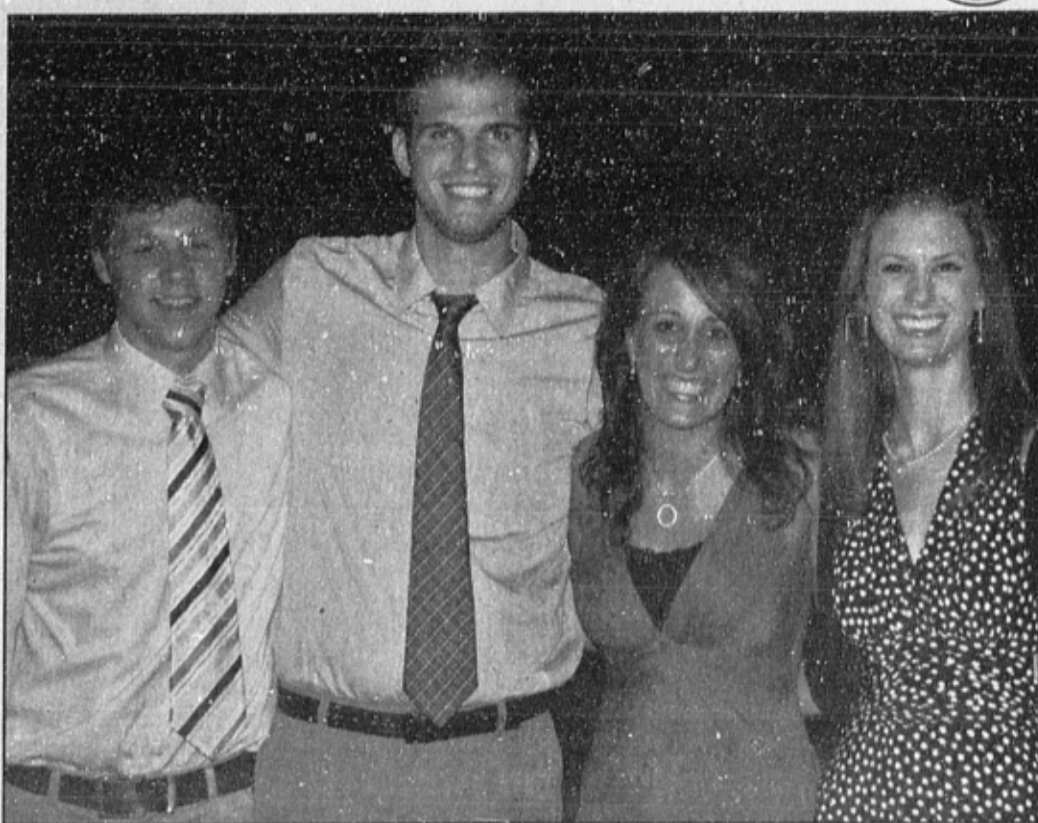
In addition to student leaders training other students, they are also responsible for training other student leaders for upcoming years.

"We train our leaders to train our leaders. I am already teaching our RDs and RAs to be looking at who will be our RAs and SLDs for fall 2010," Carson said. "Part of my vision is that we are always developing future leaders."

Although OSL has specific standards for its student leaders, the students also have their own reasons for committing to the position.

"(I want) to be part of something bigger in myself — to have the opportunity to directly impact the young men of today and the husbands/fathers of tomorrow, for Christ," Resident Director Danny Lamonte said. "It is awesome to watch a 18-year-old kid with no real relationship with God arrive on campus and be part of seeing that person leave in four years, matured, and excited about the plan God has for their life, is such a blessing."

The students on leadership tend to not let squabbles and other OSL requirements dissuade them from ministering to fellow students.



OSL BANQUET— SLD Will Thrasher and RA Chris Thompson from East 20-1 and 2 with sister dorm RA Kati Overbey and SLD Katie Smith from East 6-1 and 2.

"(I'm not on leadership) because of the sleepless nights, ER visits, hectic schedules or even Dwayne's acrostics. It's not for the late night privileges, either. Honestly, sometimes I ask myself (why I'm on leadership)," SLD Carly Muehlethaler said. "I am not capable. I am not perfect or strong or even smart. I make mistakes all the time. But if I've learned anything in the past year it's that nothing about being on leadership is about me."

"I am on student leadership ... because I know that is just one area (of many) where God is. Together, with my leadership team, we can influence and affect this campus for

Christ," she said. "My deepest desire is to see us, as a campus and a body, fall more in love with God every day. Student leadership is an avenue to get there."

For more information on becoming a student leader, visit the Office of Student Leadership next to the Hangar in the DeMoss Courtyard.

Contact Amanda Sullivan at amsullivan3@liberty.edu.

Career center hosts job fair

Cheryl Cooper
FEATURE REPORTER

While some students were running frantically around Lynchburg, delivering applications for potential jobs, others attended the job fair in the Tolsma Indoor Track Thursday hosted by the Career Center.

"The job fair gives you more direct, in-person access to the actual recruiter," Career Services Coordinator, Tara Dunne said. "If they like you while they're talking to you and filling out their application, they can say, 'Hey listen, why don't we talk a little bit more.'"

Due to the current economic downturn, it has become increasingly difficult for students to find much-needed jobs.

"I've applied to over 17 jobs in person, and eight or nine online," junior Kale Golden said. "After nearly two weeks, I have yet to hear anything back. I offered (to work) full or part time. I've stated I'm willing to work as early or late as possible."

Polly Woodridge, a John Stewart Walker Realty employee, attended a previous job fair and noted the difference in Thursday's event.

"Last year I came in April to the Career Fair, and I didn't have as much interaction with the students as I did this morning," Woodridge said.

However, it was the students who truly benefited from the job fair, since most students have never had an opportunity like the ones the job fair offered.

"I'm just not (going to) let Liberty give us opportunities and not take (advantage of) those opportunities," sophomore Lance Powers said.

Powers also said that while he is hoping to find a job related to his major, he is more concerned with finding a job that pays.

"It's better to gain experience in your job field through a job ... The actual experience you're going to gain while you're in college will be even more beneficial to you when you graduate," Dunne said.

According to Dunne, there are at least four more job fairs planned for this year.

Contact Cheryl Cooper at ccooper2@liberty.edu.

Tips for stressless success this semester

Claire Riss
FEATURE REPORTER

Thomas Edison once said success is 90 percent perspiration and 10 percent inspiration. Slacking off in the beginning only makes the end harder and the bad habits formed will be difficult to overcome.

Heather Schoffstall, director of the Bruckner Learning Center, believes that one of the most important keys to success is attending classes.

"Go to class. Most students ... end up on (academic) warning or probation ... because they missed too many classes," Schoffstall said. "Lack of attendance is what I feel hurts students the most."

Bruckner Learning Center Assistant Professor Connie Hansen suggests taking notes, no matter which class the students are in.

"Note-taking will keep students focused on lectures and more engaged in the subject matter," Hansen said.

Students should pace themselves when studying notes. Retention Coordinator for Academics and Instructor of Education José Mercado recommends studying more frequently in smaller time slots.

"The biggest and most important advice I can give is to study in chunks, not long marathons," Mercado said. "Give yourself time during the week to study, and set the limit on how many minutes you can handle at a time."

Mercado also warns against all-nighters.

"The worst way of studying for most students is the 'all-nighter' because of the lack of sleep and caffeine withdrawal that follows. All-nighters can work against you because of the tiredness that follows, and your brain doesn't work as well under fatigue," Mercado said.

Time management should also be a top priority. Steve Amburgey, assistant professor for the Bruckner Learning Center, encourages students to develop good organizational skills.

"[Students] need to have a system for managing their

time and a system for organization. They should form a schedule that includes study times," Amburgey said. "Also be sure to look at your syllabi everyday. Work ahead when you can."

When struggling with work, take advantage of Liberty's free services. The Center for Academic Support and Advising Services (CASAS), the Bruckner Learning Center and the Tutoring and Testing Center are just a few of many resources available to students.

"The Bruckner Learning Center offers courses in study skills, including time management. The Tutoring and Testing Center offers free tutoring for individuals and groups to help students

improve performance in particular classes," Ralph Jernigan, assistant professor in the Bruckner Learning Center, said.

The Bruckner Learning Center is located in the Teacher Education Hall in room 139, the Tutoring and Testing Center is in room 128 and CASAS is located in DeMoss Hall 2016.

Contact Claire Riss at criss@liberty.edu.

Tips for Success

- Attend class.
- Study in groups.
- Take notes.
- Stay organized.
- Don't pull all-nighters.
- Get help.

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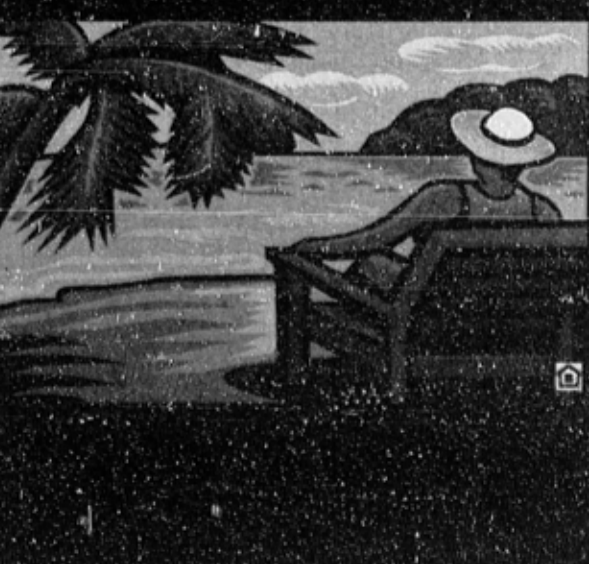
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First campus artist series of the semester

By Tiffany Edwards
ASSISTANT FEATURE EDITOR

A deep orange glow bathed the performers onstage as they led the audience in praise and worship at the first Campus Artist Series of the 2009-2010 academic year. August's Campus Artist Series featured praise and worship artist Nick Smith and indie rock duo Jacob Russo and Harrison Peaks.

Smith opened the evening with a series of praise and worship songs. Smith, who hails from upstate New York, has played music for roughly eight years and has performed on worship teams for about six years. Before attending Liberty, Smith worked with a ministry that he founded with his friends.

"Back home in New York, I've got a great group of guys, and we had up a ministry called the Purity Movement," Smith said. "It's all about keeping your mind pure, beyond abstinence. We minister through drama, music and teaching."

A freshman at Liberty, Smith signed up for the Campus Artist Series and was selected to open for Thursday's showcase. A worship and pastoral leadership major, Smith has

been writing and recording his own music for three years.

"I would like to enhance the skills and gifts that God has given me. Other than that, I would really like to become closer in my walk with God," Smith said. "My hope is that I would become a worship pastor for a larger-sized church, and take care of their worship and pastoral needs."

Next to take the stage were indie artists Jacob Russo and Harrison Peaks. Russo, a senior, performed at previous Campus Artist Series and invited his former band mate Peaks, a freshman, to join him for Thursday's performance.

"The music we performed tonight was acoustic versions of the stuff that we played with our old band," Peaks said. "We're really into indie music. We don't have a specific structure or genre for the songs that we write."

"Our inspiration is kind of a mixture. They always tend to be emotional, about girls or about God and about whatever is going on in our lives at the time," Russo said.

Russo and Peaks performed together in a band for roughly two



SMITH — Lead singer Freshman Nick Smith leads the crowd in worship at the first Campus Artist Series of the semester.

years, along with Peaks' brother and a mutual friend. Russo, an advertising major with a minor in music, and Peaks, a speech communications major, both plan on using music as a primary outlet for ministry and personal expression both at Liberty and wherever else they have the opportunity to perform.

"I plan on playing as much mu-

sic as I can," Russo said. "I actually am getting kind of a 'big break.' I'm opening for the country band Lonestar in December. They're coming to E.C. Glass High School to do a big charity event, and I know the guy who is booking it, and he got me on the bill."

"I feel that God wants me here, whether it's for music or not," Peaks

said. "I want to play as much as I can, whether it's with Jacob or with anyone else, just as long as I can play music that glorifies the Lord. When I graduate, I want to play worship music around the U.S."

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Between silent still worship and raising the dead: The Glorious Unseen

Amanda Baker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"Hey Stubbs, last night I had this dream that I was a muffler."

"A muffler?"

"No, a muffler! I had a dream I was a muffler last night, and I woke up exhausted."

"Alright guys, focus."

The members of The Glorious Unseen (TGU) lounged on couches in the middle of the Student Activities office on a sunny Friday afternoon, waiting for me to interview them, although "waiting" might be too benign of a word. Each of the guys was bursting with some unknown source of energy, as if they had each ingested a six-pack of Mountain Dew on an empty stomach. Their excitement was infectious, and what I had thought was going to be another routine interview turned out to be a deeper look into the lives of a self-proclaimed "ambient worship band."

Ben Crist, TGU's lead singer and guitarist, is the cornerstone of the band, originally starting out as a worship leader at Anchor Fellowship in Nashville, Tenn. After the addition of Crist's "good friends" Ryan Stubbs (guitar), Ben Harms (bass), Jon Todryk (drums) and Patrick Copeland (piano), the band was signed by Tooth and Nail Records and began touring a year ago. Crist came up with the name "The Glorious Unseen" because he wanted to communicate the mystery of God.

"The only reason there is a name for (the band) is because the label has to promote it. This was just a church worship band. There was no formal getting together of a band and saying, 'What are we gonna do?' I was already doing it every Sunday

and naturally everyone else just caught on," Crist said. "We kind of do the same thing whether we're at church or on the road anyway. (Even if) we are at a music festival where there are tons of bands, we still have the mentality ... like we're in a church service leading worship."

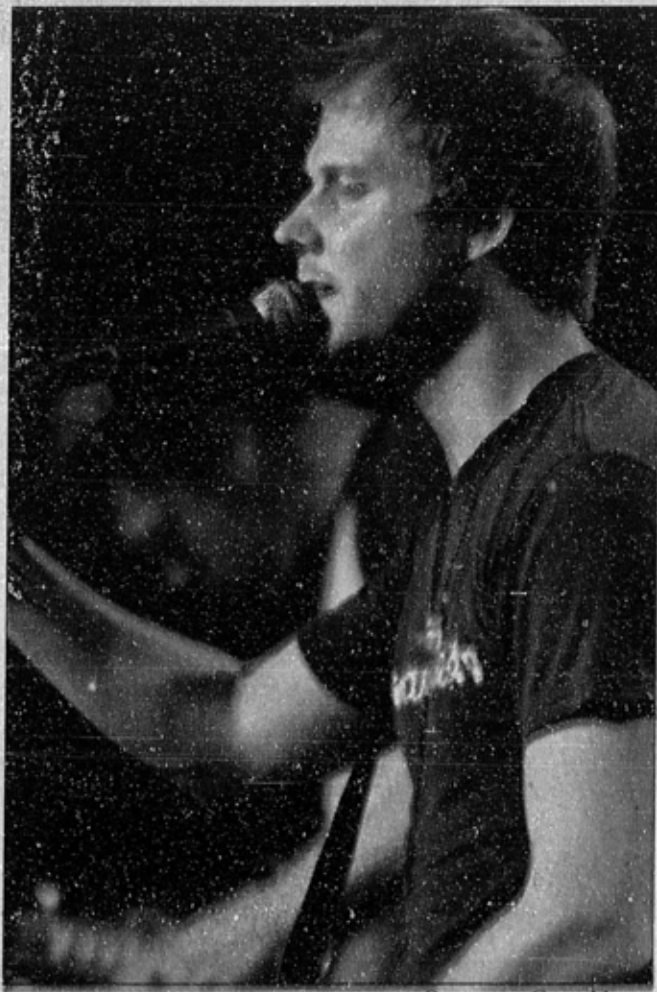
When asked about what genre they would consider their music to fall under, the band agreed that it was not so much about the name of the genre as it was about the purpose of the genre.

"I think a lot of people might ... (say) we're in the worship genre. That to me is disgusting that worship has become a genre. We actually kind of seek to move way beyond that 'genre.' Our music is so much more ambient. It's about atmosphere and creating an environment that's conducive to people really focusing on connecting with God's spirit," Crist said.

"We don't try to impress people with our music. We try to impress God with our music. And that's harder, because he's heard it all. He created it."

The band's latest album, "The Hope That Lies in You," was conceived out of difficult experiences that the members of TGU experienced around the same time. The theme of the album, according to TGU's MySpace page, is to serve "as a battle cry of optimism in our increasingly pessimistic world." They could not pick a favorite song from the album because each one was individually important.

"We were a mess. We still are kind of recovering. Right before we started writing the album our lives exploded or something," Crist said. "We were all dealing with some pretty intense stuff."



PHOTOS BY CHRIS MABES

AMBIENCE - Ben Crist performing his song "You Are." Crist is the lead singer of The Glorious Unseen, whose latest album is titled "The Hope That Lies in You."

"Every time we had to write sections I'd be on the floor. They'd call me and be like, 'Dude, you have got to get out of bed and down to the studio, we're writing.' They would have to call me four times just to get me the motivation to get up and move," Stubbs said. "We would get in the studio and we were all so drained from trying to deal with life that there was no way we could write ... because we had the wind knocked out of us."

"I feel like God kind of took our hands and helped us write. We ended up writing 13 or 14 songs in the span of 20 to 25 hours."

The guys do not bring any expectations to the stage when they do a show, solely relying

on the understanding that their performance has nothing to do with them.

"We come asking God to do what He will. We are prepared to play our songs and worship though that," the guys collaborated. "I don't think we can say there is anything we expect on a nightly basis, (because) God will do whatever He wants. Some nights there are people who just stare at you ... and other nights people will be in casts, prayed for and healed, walking around. We expect something in between there. Somewhere in between silent still worship and raising the dead."

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Don't Coast

Emily DeFosse
FEATURE EDITOR

Another semester has begun and already I find myself walking around in a sleepless daze surviving on a diet of iced coffee and Oreos. As college students, we face a lot of demands from classes, jobs and other responsibilities that vary with each person. Sometimes it can be a lot to handle, but it is worth it.

For anyone who did not attend Campus Church, now titled Aperture, last Wednesday evening, Dr. Caner presented the basis for this semester's series on the book of James called Holy Hand Grenades.

In the series he will be seeking to answer tough questions that the church is often afraid to ask, but wants answers to. Throughout his sermon there was one phrase he said that stuck with me and made me think about how I want to spend this semester: "Don't coast."

In context, Caner was discussing how it is an easy temptation to coast through the Christian life, especially while at a Christian university like Liberty. If we are not careful, we learn to speak the lingo, pray the prayers and sing the songs, yet none of it means anything.

What he said is very true, but I think as college students it is important for us to apply this concept not just to our spiritual lives, but also to every aspect of our lives.

This semester has just begun and the desire to coast may not be tempting every student yet, but it will. By the end of the semester many of us will be doing just enough to get by, while counting down the days until Christmas (118 if you were wondering). The temptation to coast entices all, from freshmen to seniors, and only a strong few can resist its terrible grip.

Whenever that temptation begins to rise up inside of you, fight it off and remember to challenge yourself. Do something this semester you have never done before. Take a chance on something new. Don't just sit around with your roommates debating God's will for your life. Go out and find it by working hard and putting everything into the classes and responsibilities you currently have.

It may take some sacrifice, a few late nights and a lot of coffee to keep going this semester. However, that will be the fuel to keep us intentionally pressing forward, instead of watching the semester pass us by in a foggy haze, in which we accomplish nothing.

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