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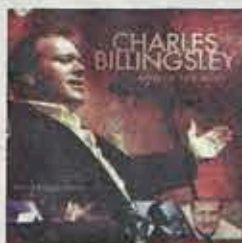
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BILLBOARD #14

New single from Billingsley's new release hit number 14 on the billboard charts. See A6 for more information.

GET DOWNTOWN

A new event will draw students to the downtown area Friday night for concerts, food and fun.

B5

LIBERTY CHAMPION

LIBERTY.EDU/CHAMPION • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 • VOL. 27 ISSUE 2

Federal health care bill waiting on Congressional vote

Matthew Coleman
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A battle for the future of America's health care system has been raging in Congress for months, effectively dividing party lines and public opinion. The fierce debate over whether the government should take a significantly more active role in regulating and maintaining the health care system is still undecided.

H.R. 3200 is a 1018-page health care reform bill that is waiting on a Congressional vote.

One of the biggest reasons health care reform is being proposed is the exorbitant costs of maintaining Medicaid and Medicare. Both government-run programs, Medicaid and Medicare were signed into law in 1965 to provide medical care for those who could not afford it. At the time, only 23.4 percent of the American population fell under that category, according to Microeconomics. Private and Public Choice. As of 2005, over 49 percent of Americans qualify, putting more financial

strain on the programs than can be handled or alleviated.

"We are on an unsustainable course right now, because we have made more promises under three main programs, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security than can be fulfilled under any sensible set of tax rates," Brookings Institution Economist Alice Rivlin said in a Frontline report.

If something is not done, the current health care system will break the American econo-

my's back, according to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget Peter Orszag.

"If healthcare costs grow at the same rate over the next four decades as they did over the past four decades, Medicare and Medicaid — those are the two federal health insurance programs — will go from 5 percent of the economy to 20 percent by 2050," Orszag said in a Frontline report.

See HEALTH CARE on A3

IN THE NEWS

MORE TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' previous hesitation to send more troops into Afghanistan has changed. Gates, along with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced Thursday that he is now considering whether more troops would help put an end to this eight-year war.

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal said it is more important what the troops are doing more than how many are there. The U.S. is minimizing civilian deaths and working with the Afghan government.

A request for additional forces will be made by the end of the month. Despite recent talk, it has not been determined how many troops will be requested. By the end of the fall, there will be 68,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, according to New York Times.

CHINA DENIES INVOLVEMENT

Journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee said they were chased by North Korean guards across the Chinese border before being taken to the North Korean prison.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Jiang Yu said Thursday that the U.S. journalists' claims that they were seized on Chinese territory are false.

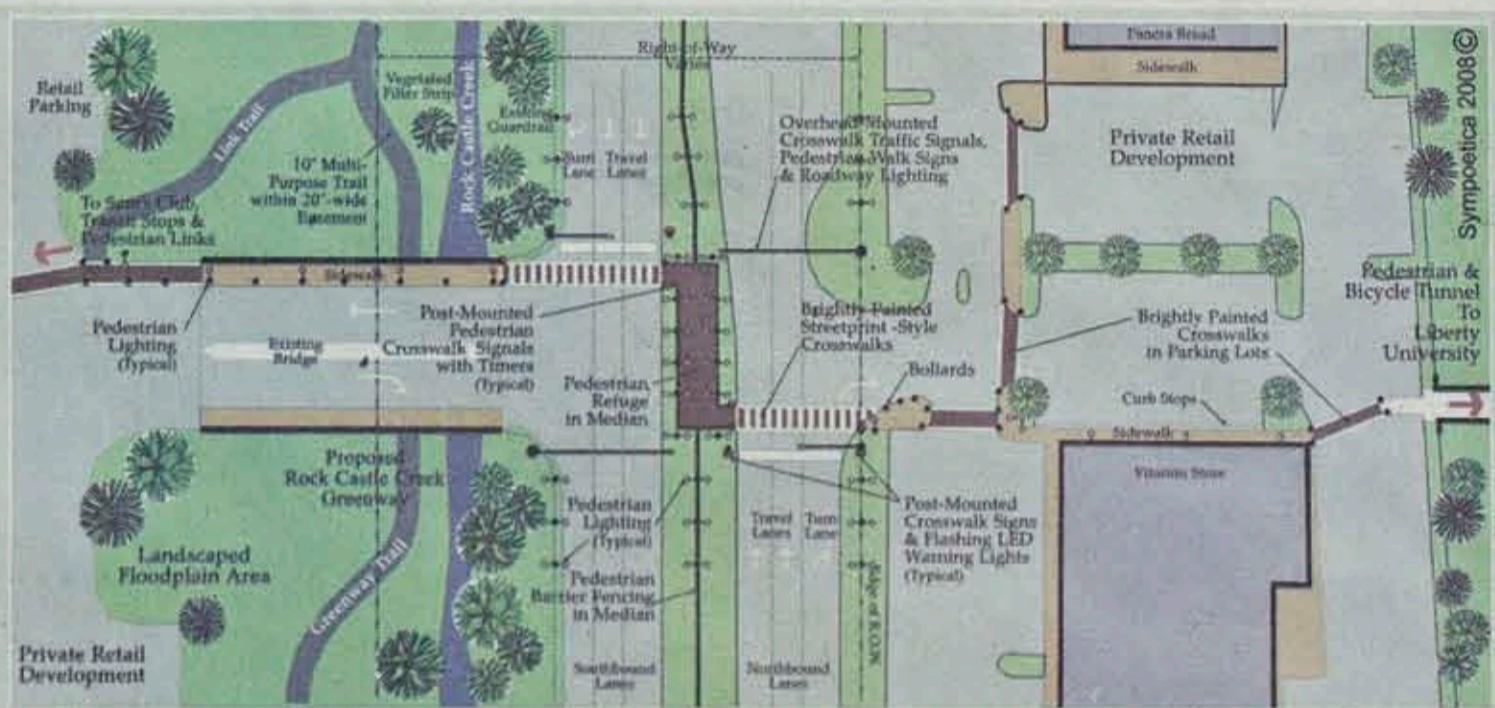
The journalists were at a frozen river when they crossed into North Korea, but when they were captured they had entered back into Chinese territory, according to the Los Angeles Times. The Chinese did not explain how they know the claims to be false, but an investigation by local Chinese authorities is underway, according to New York Times.

VT OFFERS \$10,000 FOR ANSWERS IN SHOOTINGS

Virginia Tech continues looking for answers regarding the brutal murders of two students, David Lee Metzler, 19, and Heidi Lynn Childs, 18. A reward for \$10,000 is offered to anyone with information that can lead to the conviction of the person responsible, according to the News and Advance.

CZAR RESIGNED

Controversy sparked in the Obama Administration after the Green Jobs Czar Van Jones resigned from his position Sunday night, according to foxnews.com. A self-proclaimed communist with a criminal record, Jones has been under constant fire for derogatory statements regarding Republicans and his radical views made public throughout his career. Jones went so far as to suggest that the Bush administration allowed the Sept. 11 attacks to occur and signed a petition requesting an investigation into the matter, according to foxnews.com.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SYMPOETICA, INC.

PRIMARY CONCERN: SAFETY

"We really have a two-stage safety issue. Number one is creating a situation where students do not have to walk across the tracks anymore. Secondly, getting (the students) across Wards Road."

—Director of Auxiliary Services Lee Beaumont, concerning the future travel tunnels and crosswalk, respectively.

Amanda Sullivan
NEWS REPORTER

The sight of young men and women dashing from the Sonic in front of Liberty University across Wards Road in an effort to reach Wal-Mart will soon come to end. Liberty and the City of Lynchburg are partnering together to help make the trip across Wards Road a little easier and safer for carless individuals by constructing a pedestrian and bicycle crosswalk in conjunction with the university's building pedestrian tunnel near the Vines Center and vehicular tunnels on the north side of the campus.

The need for a pedestrian and bicycle crosswalk was recognized when the City of Lynchburg hired Sympoetica out of Woodstock, Va., to conduct a Wards Road Pedestrian Study, which was spurred by requirements in Liberty's conditional use permits for the vehicular tunnels, according to Director of Auxiliary Services Lee Beaumont.

"The city had to come up with a way to get 6,700 students across Wards Road," Beaumont said.

Many students make the mad dash across the railroad tracks and Wards Road out of

necessity or sometimes just out of boredom — an adrenaline rush of sorts.

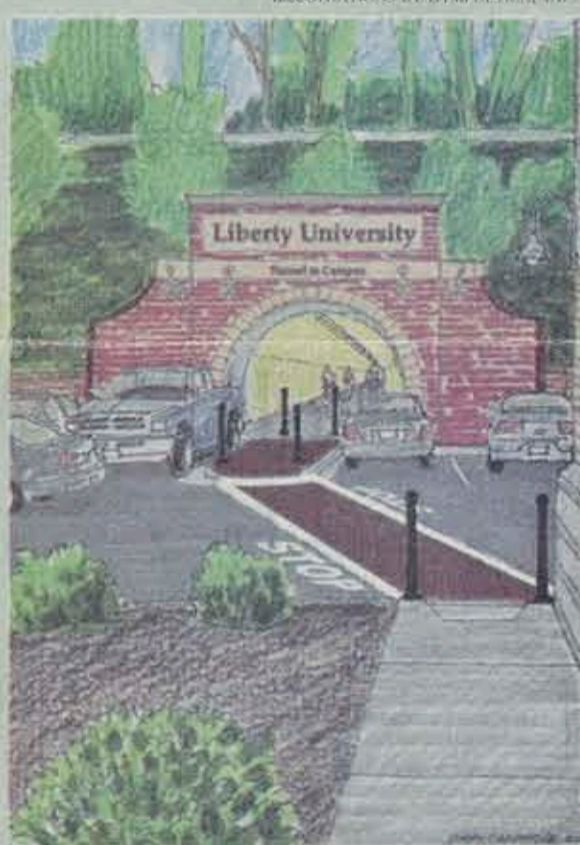
"I've (made the trip) a couple times and let me tell you—you better be right with Christ before you venture out there," senior Matt LaSasso said. "It even gets more interesting if you're going to the Wal-Mart and your crossing the street with groceries."

"We really have a two-stage safety issue," Beaumont said. "Number one is creating a situation where students do not have to walk across the tracks anymore. Secondly, getting (the students) across Wards Road."

The city's solution to the problem of pedestrian safety was pedestrian crosswalk. The city is estimating that the project will cost about \$1 million.

Several options were considered to solve the problem. The city contemplated building the crossing underground, but the tunnel would be below the waterline and expensive. The idea of building the crosswalk overhead was also considered and dismissed because the cost and the need for building elevators for handicap accessibility.

See CROSSWALK on A3



• Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg are partnering together to ensure the safety of pedestrians and alleviate traffic concerns.

• The crosswalk and bicycle project is expected to cost the City of Lynchburg an estimated \$1 million.

• Construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2010 and end in the fall, pending approval from the city council on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Clubs officially unofficial

Melinda Zosh
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University adopted a new policy for political clubs on campus. Administrators learned this summer that both the Liberty University College Republicans (LUCR) and Liberty University College Democrats (LUCD) have supported candidates whose positions on the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage were not in line with the university's doctrinal beliefs on those issues. The LUCD supported Obama in 2008 and the LUCR supported Gilmore for Senate in 2008, who supported abortion rights during the first

trimester of pregnancy.

As official clubs are, in effect, divisions or departments of the university there are strict guidelines in force that require official clubs to support the university's standards.

In order to allow the LUCD and LUCR to continue to operate, the university decided to reclassify both as unofficial clubs. Liberty's name and assets are not to be used to support any positions contrary to its doctrinal beliefs, but the university does not want to impede the political activism of its students.

See POLITICAL CLUBS on A3

SEW

Daniel Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

Hundreds of students pressed together, shoulder-to-shoulder, filling the floor in front of the Vines Center stage, as thousands of their peers cheered. As shouts of praise mingled with yells of joy and hands pointed toward heaven, worship music filled the arena.

Senior Laura Faidley called it "the perfect way to start the year."

See SEW on A2

Where to find it

Opinion A4 Feature B5
Sports B1 News A2

FOOTBALL

Check out B1 & B3 for in-depth reports on Saturday's game against WVU

SEW continued

From Monday, Aug. 31, to Wednesday, Sept. 2, Liberty University held its regular Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW), starting the new semester with extra church and worship services.

With popular evangelist Clayton King on hand for the fifth straight year, thousands of students packed the Vines Center three nights in a row, praying, worshipping and listening.

"It's like Johnnie (Moore) said, 'We're all getting a heart check this week,'" Faidley said.

King, who frequently tells the students that Liberty is his favorite place to speak, delivered five messages — the three night services at the Vine Cen-

ter and Monday and Wednesday Convocation. He spoke on owning one's faith, genuine conversion, discouragement, God's grace as revealed through the parable of the prodigal son and overcoming sexual temptation.

"I love when Clayton speaks. He's one of my favorite (speakers) who comes down here," sophomore Sarah Mahr said. "He brings humor to the stage, but he still has such a solid message."

Mahr saw multiple girls in her dorm accept Jesus as their savior or make decisions to rid themselves of harmful burdens or habits as a result of King's messages.

While more than 200 students chose to accept Christ

after King's message on conversion Monday night, the following messages continued to impact students.

"The discouragement message definitely stood out," senior Patrick Sims said. "Everyone goes through times like that."

"The messages are very challenging and convict us as Christians," freshmen Robert Brink said. "Spiritual Emphasis Week is not long enough. We should have services every night."

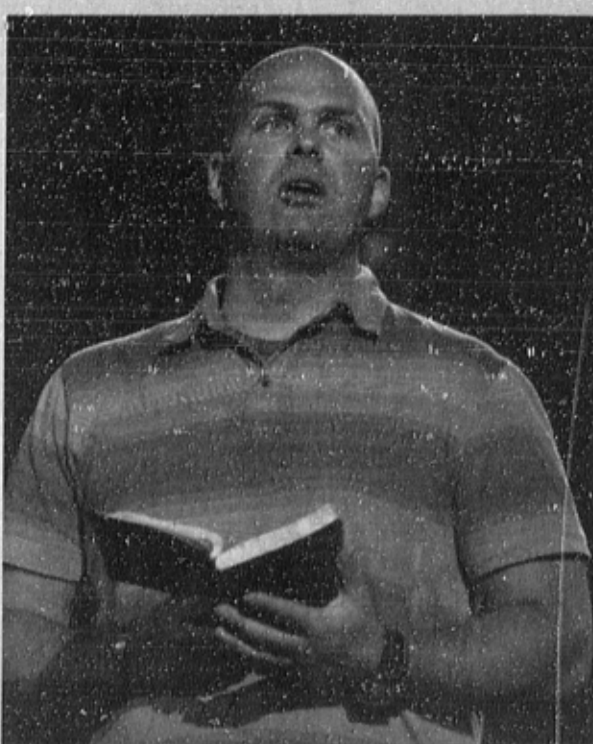
King said the students' reaction to his messages has always been his favorite thing about visiting Liberty: "I can't take five steps across campus without two or three students coming up to me and open-

ing up a conversation about Christ," King said.

He has gotten encouraging feedback from students over the years that his efforts have been well worth it and have made a difference in people's lives, according to King. He cited their "response, excitement, energy, warmth and friendliness" as things that make him excited to come back every year.

For King, the point of SEW can be found in John 3:30: "God must increase, and I must decrease."

Contact Daniel Martinez at dpmartinez@liberty.edu.



CHRIS MABES

Newest campus pastor — Clayton King returned to Liberty for his fifth Spiritual Emphasis Week.

HEALTH CARE REFORM continued

"If you are looking at where the money is, it is in health care, and this budget is the most aggressive budget that I have ever seen in terms of moving towards a more efficient health care system," Orszag said.

Another driving cause for reform is the number of people in America who are not insured. Nearly 46 million people under the age of 65 — 18 percent of the American population — are currently without medical coverage, according to the National Coalition on Health Care. The health care reform would ensure that everyone in America, including those who cannot afford it, is covered.

The only way to fix the faltering health care system and the sky-rocketing cost of insurance payments in America is to completely overhaul the existing system, according to Obama. He told radio host Michael Smerconish Thursday that "any bill he signs will have to reduce rapidly rising (medical) costs, protect consumers from insurance abuses and provide affordable choices to the uninsured while not adding to the federal deficit," according to the News and Advance.

But even with the promises and hopeful outlooks from the White House, support for the health care reform and, subsequently, Obama has been faltering. Favorable public opinion has dropped sharply eight points to 49 percent in the last six weeks, while Obama's overall approval rating has dropped to 45 percent, according to a Rasmussen Reports poll released this week.

The devil is in the details of the health care reform, according to Wall Street Journal Reporter Thomas Frank. The sheer magnitude of the changes being proposed is leaving many Americans scratching their heads about whether the bill is truly the best route to take.

The estimated 46 million uninsured people in America can be broken down into four sub-categories. Ten million of those people are non-American citizens who are in this country illegally, 14 million make \$50,000 or more per year and can afford their own health care insurance, 14 million are already eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and the rest are truly unable to pay for health insurance, according to Economics Professor Robert Rencher.

"When you throw out all those people (who can get insurance) we are down to under

10 million people who cannot afford health care," Rencher said. "Let's only focus on the five to ten million people that are truly unable to afford or receive health care and not turn the whole (health care) system on its head."

Another issue being raised is the cost of health care reform. While Obama has promised a plan that will not add to the deficit, the current plan proposed by Congress is projected to add a trillion dollars to the deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

"You can't do what is being proposed (in the health care bill) and not increase the deficits," Rencher said.

With America's debt already nearing \$12 trillion, many are wondering where the government is going to get the money to pay for the proposed health care reform.

In addition, many Americans are finding themselves at odds with the numerous programs and regulations the 1018-page bill will put into effect.

One of the greatest concerns voiced by the American people is the infamous "death panels" proposed by the bill that will decide who lives and who dies. Obama has denounced the existence of these panels.

To a degree, Obama is correct. The bill makes no specific mention of a "death panel."

However, on sec. 123, pg. 30, it does say that there will be a government committee deciding what treatments and benefits everyone gets, according to Free Republic Reporter Peter Fleckenstein. This committee — not a panel — will be responsible for deciding who receives what treatments and surgeries. The decisions will be based on who is most deserving of treatment, according to Special Advisor for Health Policy Ezekiel Emanuel.

"We recommend an alternative system — the complete lives system — which prioritizes

younger people who have not yet lived a complete life," Emanuel said in the *Lancet's* Jan. 31 edition.

"This system also treats human beings as commodities, evaluating their lives as investments," Dean of Law Mat Staver said in *www.*

LC.org. "An agency will determine the kinds and amount of care to be provided based on a person's age and condition. The cost of life years will be determined by establishing protocols that place a value of medical care in dollars to the age and illness of a person."

"Maybe you're better off not having the surgery, but taking the pain killer," Obama said

at a nationally televised town hall meeting on June 25, according to www.LC.org.

The daunting list of rules and regulations has left many Americans wondering whether this bill is the best thing for them or America as a whole.

As it stands, the bill will provide federal funding for abortions, give the government access to everyone's financial records, grant free treatment for all illegal immigrants, require health care rationing, impose fees on private insurance companies, provide end-of-life counseling as opposed to necessary treatment and impose higher taxes on the American populace, according to Fleckenstein.

As the list goes on, the issue of morality becomes a factor, and the overwhelming cries heard from many town hall meetings across the country make one point very clear: A majority of Americans do not want their tax dollars funding these programs.

Congress reconvened this week, and Obama will address the nation Wednesday in an attempt to reach a bipartisan compromise on the health care reform bill. The question to be answered is: has public support for health care reform, and for the president himself, eroded so badly that it will be impossible to pass H.R. 3200. America will soon see.

Contact Matthew Coleman at mcoleman@liberty.edu.



ALEX TOWERS

Town hall meetings — Lynchburg area citizens turn out for a meeting on the health care bill held at Rustburg High School.

LIBERTY CHAMPION

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR
POLICIES & INFO

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

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

Send letters to:
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CROSSWALK *continued*

"The solution involves everything from a little green trail on the Wal-Mart side and a sidewalk with a multi-staged crossing near Sam's," he said.

Liberty will appear in front of the city council for the adoption of the plan on Tuesday, Sept. 8. After the approval, the city council is required to supply the money needed to pay for the crosswalks, according to Beaumont.

"Liberty's responsibility is to pay for the tunnels," Beaumont said. "But once we get over the tracks, it's not our property."

The university and the city are attempting to build both the tunnel and crosswalk simultaneously. Liberty is seeking federal stimulus funds to help build the pedestrian tunnel, beginning construction in the spring, and completing the project in the fall.

The pedestrian crosswalk will benefit more

than Liberty and its students.

"I really think it's going to be a big deal for the vendors," Beaumont said. "There are a number of vendors in support (of the crosswalk project). Wal-mart and Sam's (Club) are in support of it along with many others."

The tunnel and crosswalk's completion will offer a greater opportunity for students and food vendors alike.

"We're going to start revamping how we do our point system with the meal plan," he said. "We're going to call it LU Dollars, which will give students the opportunity to buy food off campus with meal points."

Contact Amanda Sullivan at
amsullivan3@liberty.edu.

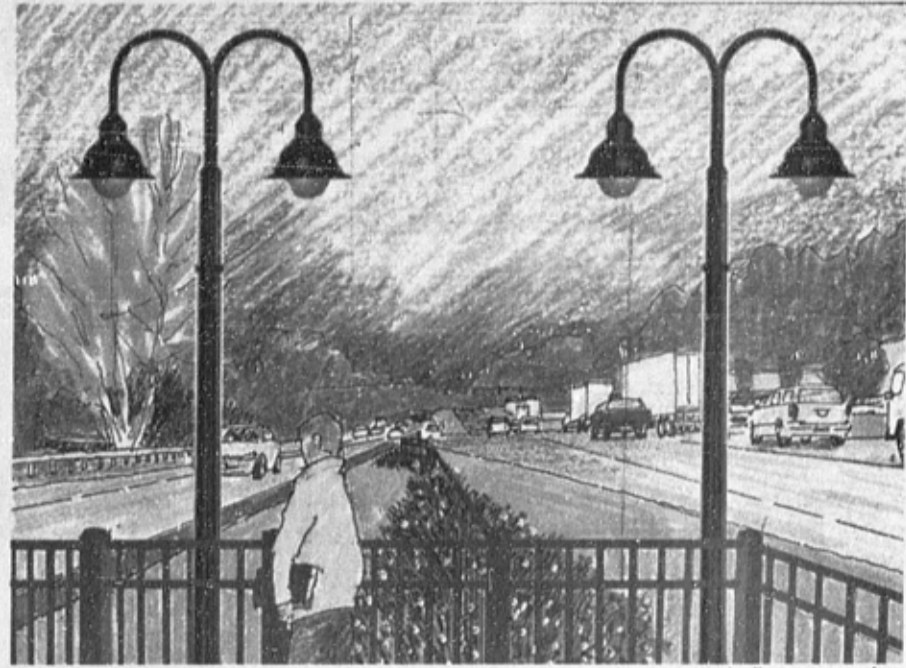


ILLUSTRATION BY SYMPOETICA, INC.

The finished product — A conceptual drawing of the completed crosswalk.

POLITICAL CLUBS *continued*

The policy that did not allow unofficial clubs to reserve classrooms and certain other meeting rooms on campus has also been changed. Those clubs may now reserve rooms as long as the events being held do not promote causes that are contrary to the school's mission.

If unofficial clubs support candidates or causes incompatible with the university's doctrine, they must include a disclaimer stating that "Liberty University does not endorse the views of this candidate," according to College Republicans Chairman Caleb Mast.

The clubs can campaign on campus, reserve rooms, advertise, and invite guest speakers, but as a result of the new status, the Student Government Association will not distribute funds to the clubs.

Mast said he is not worried about this slight adjustment in the policy.

"I don't think the outcome will hurt us at all," Mast said. "We can solicit donations from any other place except Liberty University. I'm happy with the university's decision."

But the process did not start as smoothly as it ended, according to Krautter. On May 15, Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Hine sent an e-mail to the LUCD informing members that the university no longer formally recognized the club. Local and national media outlets published the e-mail, and the situation escalated before the students and administration could hold a meeting.

Krautter did not expect the administration's initial e-mail.

"I was completely shocked," Krautter said. "I

grew up in a Christian home, and my dad was a pastor so I recognized and understood, to a certain extent, the line of reasoning that the administration was using, but I still felt the decision was an encroachment on students' rights," said Krautter.

Leong said that he had been following the controversy since May.

"After reading through the press releases, it seemed as if the media escalated the problem more than what it was," Leong said. "Both clubs are here to further Liberty's message as holding true to Christian values."

"Liberty University did not want to compromise anything that it stood for," Leong said. "The decision was fair."

Leong said the administration made the decision after reviewing the LUCR's and LUCD's constitutions.

"Where it stated that (each club) wanted to advance the platform of the individual party, that's where it came into conflict since Liberty's goal to advance its message of being distinctly Christian," Leong said.

Both Krautter and Leong agree that Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr., communicated well with the clubs.

"It was really great of the chancellor to keep open communication and to state what he believed in," Leong said.

LUCD Vice President Jan Dervish said he was surprised at the national and international media attention. A Taiwanese newspaper, among others, interviewed him.

After reporters contacted the LUCD executive board, Dervish said he "met with the ad-

ministration in a face-to-face meeting, as well as exchanging quite a few e-mails to finalize our compromise."

"It is important to remain respectful and level-headed when dealing with any disagreement. Resolutions always come when cool heads prevail," Dervish said.

Even though cool heads prevailed throughout the process, Krautter said the development of the resolution was "chaotic." The executive board had already left for summer vacation, holding teleconferences often. He said the board had mixed feelings about the situation.

"You had some people in the club that wanted to go in one direction with things and you had other members who wanted to go in the opposite direction," Krautter said.

Mast and LUCR Advisor Stephen Witham did not participate in this part of the process, but Mast recently met with Vice President Mark Hine and Director of Commuter Affairs Larry Provost to discuss the future of College Republicans.

"You can believe all the right things, but if you don't get politically involved those ideas won't be put into policy," Mast said.

The new policies have not discouraged student participation. Over 50 students attended the College Republicans' first meeting on Aug. 27. Virginia Republican Chairman Pat Mullens, Republican Delegate nominee Scott Garrett and Delegate Ben Kline spoke to the club about the upcoming gubernatorial and local elections.

Mullens said he was "delighted that both parties have representation on campus."

"I'm impressed with the caliber of students. There's a sort of professionalism here," he said. "I definitely will be back and I hope to speak to this group, and it better be three times as large."

LUCD is planning several town hall meetings this year. LUCD members are hoping that Delegate Shannon Valentine, who spoke at a town hall meeting about Darfur last semester, will make another trip to Liberty.

Krautter said he co-founded College Democrats because "... we should be re-evaluating our beliefs and considering all sides. That is why it is important to have both parties represented. I hope students can learn that it's not a bad thing to have an open mind and look at issues from the other side in a respectful and intellectual way."

Dervish wants to break the stereotypes about Christian Democrats.

"Many people have a preconceived notion that Democrats 'get some religion' when it is convenient, and I don't think that's true," Dervish said. "There are many issues in the Democratic platform that we as Christians can find agreeable."

Leong said that he is happy that both clubs can assemble on campus.

"I am really looking forward to working with the LUCR and LUCD," Leong said. "I'd like to thank Chancellor Jerry Falwell for his willingness to work through everything that went on and to make the university a better place."

Contact Melinda Zosh at
mzosh@liberty.edu.

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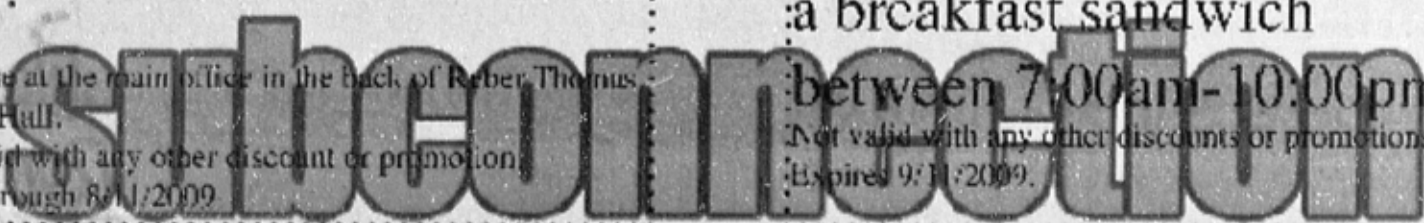
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Raining on the cap-and-trade green parade

By Tim Mattingly
OPINION EDITOR

There are only sunny days in Washington, as all of America's clouds are being swept away by President Barack Obama. And under green-thumbed democratic doctrine, America wanders toward its future — a place where the air is clean.

As politics in Washington would seem, the Democrats are telling us how to get ... how to get to Sesame Street. However, the means to America's environmental end are not leaving everyone feeling as tickled as Elmo.

Such is the case with the curious little Cookie Monster called cap on emissions (a slightly euphemized way of saying "cap-and-trade"). The basic tenets of this capping concept, rolled into a tiny dough ball and popped into America's mental oven, are that the government wants to gobble up greenhouse gasses by giving "incentives" for companies to reduce their emission of pollutants into the atmosphere.

While it sounds like political peaches and Pop-Tarts, there is a little mean to the green incentive.

Obama predicts that cap-and-trade will decrease U.S. emissions by 83 percent come year 2050, while smacking the whiskers off non-compliant companies to the tune of \$646 billion between 2012 and 2019, according to Business Week. But companies are not the only ones harmed by cap-and-trade, as Kermit warns American taxpayers, "It's not easy being green."

"(The) cap-and-trade system will have some effects on households," admitted White House Budget Director Peter Orszag, according to Bloomberg.com.

To put it into perspective, cap-and-trade will have "some effects" on the companies that provide Americans with electricity, thus having "some effects" on our monthly electric bill. But, no need to fear — there are still a few daisies in this financial minefield, as Obama has promised cap-and-trade will provide \$15 billion per year to assist middle and lower class households that make less than \$250,000 as couples and less than \$125,000 as singles, according to Bloomberg.com.

While \$15 billion seems like a large sum of money, it will be stretched thinner than Kermit's scrawny green legs. As of 2000, there were about 105.5 million households in America, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. An estimated 3.1 percent of these households are considered "upper-class" by Obama, according to the Annenberg Political Fact Check (University of Pennsylvania). Rounding down, that still leaves 102 million households to split the \$15 billion cap-and-trade kickback, re-



GRAPHIC COMPILED BY TIM MATTINGLY

sulting in only an extra \$147 for each household per year.

It does not take Count von Count to see that these numbers do not add up to much in taxpayers' favor.

The Democrats control both the House and Senate, making them the Big Birds in Washington's political nest. Despite the facts, they are still chirping for green reform. And the bigger birds always get the worm, while the smaller, emaciated chicklet's hunger-bulging eyes can only look upon the feast with contempt. It is simply the law of nature and politics.

Additionally, this course of clean nature is steering America toward more snuffleupagus-sized financial woes via expensive government reform. After all, Mr. Aloysius Snuffleupagus and Big Bird are best friends on Sesame Street.

During the Democrats' quest for its own personal Sesame Street, the politicians have forgotten the everyday Burt and Ernie that made them the Big Birds they are today — the vot-

ing American taxpayers. And while purifying the planet for future generations to inherit is important, this kind of cap-and-trade clean-up is coming at the wrong time. On the back of the stimulus package and proposed health care reform, America needs something that will decrease their financial burden, not further it.

Not to be an Oscar the Grouch, but the green, clean air will do us little good if we are financially-forced to live in dumpsters. Also, America's sunny environmental future could use some clouds, because without rain and reason, America's Sesame Street will begin to look more like the Gobi Desert.

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The president's political missteps

By Mattison Brooks
OPINION REPORTER

Logic would show that any person who tries to be all things to all people will eventually begin to step on toes doing it. And while that person stumbles around trying to apologize for stepping on those toes, he or she will step on more.

Take President Barack Obama for example. For several months now, he has been pushing the stimulus bills, the bailouts and all forms of spending to reach a stable point of economic recovery. In doing this, he alienated a lot of his voting base and independents who had switched over to the Democratic side because of Obama's message of "change."

Change of course, was identified as a break from what was "business as usual" in Washington and on Capitol Hill up until that point: too much government and too much spending. But apparently \$2.6 trillion in a mere eight months is not "too much spending."

Unfortunately for the president, quite a few people disagreed.

So when the record did not match the

rhetoric, sour grapes ensued. That was most clearly shown by the intense anger on display at several major town hall meetings and made all the more obvious by nighttime cable news. Among the dissidents were moderate Democrats, Republicans and Independents — a hodgepodge of the political spectrum. This just goes to show that we can all get along, so long as our populist rage is focused on someone or something else and not on each other.

And once that rage picked up steam, word spread about the public health care debate and something extraordinary happened. Talk from the Democratic side that the president might drop the "public option" government run health care coverage that is paid for with tax dollars.

That was foot number two Obama stepped on.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has since stated that no bill will clear the House without a public option. The president has not only alienated moderates and the right wing, but now the left wing has reason to doubt if its golden boy "go-getter" is going to get any-

thing done. To be fair, the president forgot to remind his base that changes can be made at a moment's notice, much like the changes he made to his "change" platform less than 100 days into office.

As it stands, it really should not surprise anyone that Obama's popularity is slipping. The president's approval rating has been in steady decline since January, and only just slipped below 50 percent, according to gallup.com. Congress will be back in session after Labor Day and will have to face an unpopular president calling the shots to an abysmally unpopular Congress — only 29 percent of Americans polled are confident Congress knows what it is doing with the economy, according to rasmussenreports.com. On top of all this, on Sept. 2, Obama announced a major speech will be given to both Houses of Congress on the health care issue on Sept. 9.

So what exactly does all this mean? It means that Obama now has to repair the damage that he has done to his health care plan, his politics and his future in office. In this speech on Sept. 9, Obama must convince the moderates and

conservatives that he will not raise taxes to pay for the reform and will not force certain ideologies and practices down the throats of unwilling doctors. On the flip side, Obama must also convince the liberals and the left wing that he will push hard for the public option and get it done at whatever cost, which is exactly what he promised back in January.

The real question is how on Earth will he pull it off? Since I don't believe in magic and I don't think he has found Lincoln's gold to pay for all this, I sincerely doubt he can.

Because Obama cannot be all things to all people, toes will be stepped on. And as it stands right now there are a lot of angry Americans on both sides of the political spectrum who have sore feet. It will be interesting to see what happens this week.

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FROM THE DESK

Sometimes, prayer groups are not enough.

Don't get me wrong, entreating the Lord in school-sanctioned, once-a-week gatherings is beneficial on many levels (if you live on-campus in the dorms, you know what I'm talking about), but sometimes I need to step outside of the Liberty bubble and take my own initiative to connect with a church-based, community-minded small group.

At the beginning of the semester, my quad mates and I

were invited to a Life Community Network group by one of our friends, Nathan, who attends Grace Evangelical Free Church. The purpose of these groups is to bring together college/post-college kids to "study a common Christ-centered curriculum, pray together for others, care for one another and share life together," according to the Life Groups section of Grace's Web site, graceefc.net.

The point of this small group is not to add another thing to check off my to-do list. It's not to get Christian brownie points (although real brownies are sometimes served when we get together). The point is to offer and receive support from peers who are dealing with the same stresses and joys of life during and after college.

We also get to serve the community around us. We are going to partner with Rebuild Lynchburg, an organization that fixes and cleans up homes free of charge for folks who cannot afford the repairs themselves. Serving those around us does not only encourage them; it encourages us to extend our witness beyond our personal comfort zone.

Small groups like this don't exist just at Grace. Other churches in the area, including Thomas Road, offer college

small groups that serve a similar purpose as the one I'm involved with. The cool thing about these groups is that they reach out beyond students who live on-campus. Off-campus students, who are not required to attend prayer groups, should still be plugged in to receive spiritual encouragement and serve the community with their peers.

My point with all of this is that you should own your faith. We can go to prayer groups, Campus Church, Convocation, Sunday morning and evening church services, and still be completely passive. We should aggressively take hold of our faith and see what kind of adventures God has for us outside our normal, comfortable routine.

Because sometimes, normal just isn't enough, and comfortable isn't what we have been called to be.

Amanda Baker

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Buy a pair of shoes, change a life

Katie Bell
OPINION REPORTER

Each school year brings a sense of newness to our student body. The new freshmen, new haircuts, new clothes and new shoes are the signature mark that the school year has begun. But what about the children across the globe who long to go to school but are not allowed because they do not have shoes?

In 2006, TOMS shoes was conceived as an answer to this predicament. It began when Blake Mycoskie traveled to Argentina and immediately befriended some local children. He soon discovered that none of the children owned shoes. He returned to the States with memories of the Argentinean children and an idea that would change thousands of lives. Mycoskie decided to begin a shoe company, and with every pair of shoes that were sold, another would be donated to a child in need. He designed a basic, yet unique-looking pair of canvas kicks which are affordable to manufacture and comfortable to wear. The next year he returned to Argentina with friends, family and 10,000 pairs of shoes — this was the first shoe drop.

The average American purchases eight pairs of shoes a year at an average cost of \$85 per pair, according to a

dshort.com article by Jacqueline Bodnar entitled, "Buying Discount Shoes Keeps Money in Pockets of Financially Strapped Customers." By purchasing a pair of TOMS shoes, which range in cost from \$44 to \$54, a consumer can save money and help a child in need. It is hard to argue with a deal like that.

As Americans, we take shoes for granted. Shoes protect feet from cuts and sores, which are quite painful and can become infected. The leading cause of disease in developing countries is soil-transmitted parasites that penetrate the skin through open sores, according to tomsshoes.com. Wearing shoes can prevent this and the risk of amputation after infection. Wearing shoes literally can save lives.

TOMS has five shoe drops a week in Ethiopia alone to prevent podocoinosis, a debilitating disease that preys on victims who walk barefoot. But it is 100 percent preventable just by wearing shoes. Many Americans are already proud TOMS owners and those who are not should think about becoming part of the movement.

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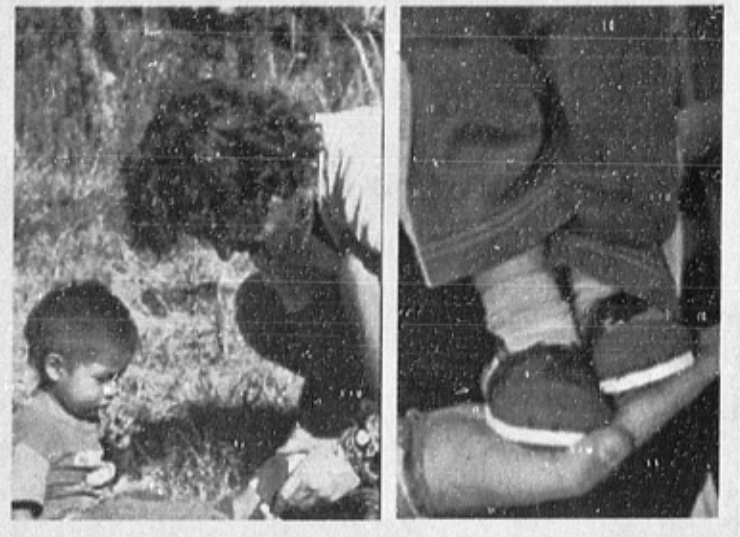


PHOTO PROVIDED BY TOMSSHOES.COM

Get involved

By purchasing a pair of shoes, applying for a TOMS internship and becoming involved in TOMS Shoes Campus Clubs. By the end of 2009 TOMS shoes will have given away 300,000 pairs of shoes to those in need, according to www.tomsshoes.com. Under the leadership of Mycoskie, TOMS has done an incredible amount of good for the world. Visit tomsshoes.com for more information.

Virginia Tech: the link between tragedy and mental health cases

Kwaku De-Graft Duncan
OPINION REPORTER

It is hard to grasp, and nobody can actually explain why a very dark cloud reigns over Blacksburg, Va., wreaking havoc with the most unimaginable tragedies. It is almost as if these catastrophes happen in a routine pattern desperately trying to break the spirit of the Hokies.

It all started on April 16, 2007, with a seriously troubled Cho Seung Hui, a Virginia Tech (VT) student who massacred 32 people with a 9mm and .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol. In January 2009, VT student Xin Yang's head was cut off with a kitchen knife at the Au Bon Pain student café. The culprit was her fellow student and close friend Haiyang Zhu. This shocking news had VT reliving the mass nightmare that happened previously.

"Once again we are challenged as a community to offer support to one another as we process this recent event. Once again we will rise to the occasion," VT President Charles Steger said in a public address, following the decapitation.

Now, active Campus Crusade for Christ and VT students Heidi Childs, 18 and David Metzler, 19, are the latest victims of the unfor-

tunate events that have struck heartache once again in VT.

They were shot to death 15 miles from campus at the Jefferson National Forest according to the police report. Investigators also claimed that the shooting was random and no suspects had yet been named, according to a Roanoke Times article.

Some may say VT is cursed, while others blame security for the outbreaks of violence. Either way, safety has become a major concern for VT students.

In reality, the tragic events have nothing to do with security or a curse but stem from individual cases of deteriorating mental health.

Fellow students and professors from the VT English Department were aware of Cho's sinister and anti-social behavior. They also noticed the overly dark and violent material evident in his work.

"Cho, who has been described by classmates and teachers as brooding, withdrawn and silent, also left a rambling, angry, multi-page document in his dorm room. He wrote at least one bomb threat that police found, as well as a novel and some disturbing poems and plays," stated a Washington Post article.

In addition to that, Cho had to undergo mental health counseling for his disturbing plays and the reported cases of stalking two girls. In the infamous video he sent to NBC, Cho tried to justify his motive for killing by depicting himself as a modern martyr, with a pistol held high in each hand serving as his instruments of judgment. In hindsight, it is clear Cho had been mentally unstable for a long time.

It is also certain that Haiyang Zhu had trouble reasoning when he decapitated Xin Yang. Zhu wrote on a Chinese-language blog that he had been so frustrated over stock losses and other problems that he contemplated suicide or murdering someone, according to Sky News. Zhu became so frustrated, that he hacked off Yang's head with a kitchen knife. If that's not mentally twisted, I don't know what it is.

Now someone has murdered Childs and Metzler, two people who devoted their lives to following Christ and tried making a difference in other people's lives at VT. They were considered good kids, and the death of this couple is hard to fathom.

VT was unlucky to suffer at the hands of

normal individuals who became mentally unstable and were a danger to society. Security is not at total fault, and cannot be blamed.

"Many colleges and universities in California, and around the nation, are forcefully tackling issues of security and mental health during summer orientation seminars and greet-the-freshman gatherings with parents and new students before regular classes begin," reported the LA Times.

Most colleges and universities now have new emergency notification systems, such as the text-based notifications Liberty faculty and students receive on their cell phones and e-mail. They also offer extensive mental health and counseling programs.

On a higher note, VT has united more than ever. People continue to show support for one another and VT is doing everything it can to help the student body recover from these horrific tragedies. My condolences and prayers go out to the Childs and Metzler family and to all who are Hokies at heart.

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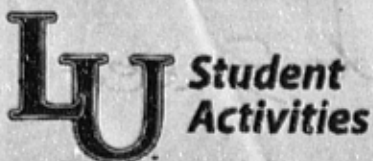


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"God of the Ages" debuts on Billboard charts



Inspired — Travis Doucette, former member of Exodus, wrote "God of the Ages," the title track of Charles Billingsley's new CD.

Sarah Blanzly
NEWS REPORTER

Travis Doucette, a graduate student at Liberty, composed a song two years ago that is now impacting people across the nation. "God of the Ages" is the title track on the CD that was released Aug. 25 by Charles Billingsley, Thomas Road Baptist Church's worship leader. The song recently debuted on Billboard's Christian Inspirational chart at #19 and is climbing, indicating the way it resonates in hearts everywhere as people sing it in worship to God. During the summer of 2007, Doucette was at his home in Canada when he was inspired by the words he read in Colossians 1:15-18.

"As Paul describes the supremacy of Christ in this passage, the weight stirred something in my spirit," Doucette said. "The impact of these verses in my heart planted a desire in me to express the truth of God's Word in a congregational song that was

a declarative response to who God is."

The song's basis in Scripture is the primary reason why Billingsley believes the song is realizing so much popularity.

"God's Word will not return void," he said.

The song debuted in the spring of 2008 when Exodus and LU Praise presented it as a special in convocation. It was later performed at TRBC by the Center for Worship at the end of the year program in May 2008. During the program, Thomas Road Pastor Jonathan Falwell was moved by the song and requested it be sung again at the end of the program. He then requested that Billingsley and the TRBC choir and orchestra present the song to the church body.

In February 2009, almost a full year after "God of the Ages" debuted on the mountain, Billingsley decided to make it the title track of his new album. When asked why he made the song the title track, he explained that the Thomas Road congregation and the students at Liberty had fallen in love with it. The goal of the album is to enhance the worship of people, and Billingsley saw how "God of the Ages" was already doing just that. The night the album was recorded there were almost 400 people on the platform, including several world-class musicians from Los Angeles, worshipping the Lord through song.

"It was just an incredibly powerful evening of worship," Billingsley said. "I guess our biggest concern was making sure that we captured that on this recording... that that beautiful spirit of the evening wasn't taken away."

While Billingsley recorded the radio release of "God of the Ages" with a few studio players in Los Angeles, the album was produced right here on the Mountain by the new record company Red Tie Productions. The publishing entity is owned and operated by Billingsley and Liberty University. It is a lifelong project of Billingsley who says he is "fired up" about the good things to come from Red Tie Productions.

"God of the Ages" continues to grow in popularity. It is being played on radio stations around the country and churches are contacting Billingsley's office every day anxious to use the song in their worship services.

"It just one of those songs when you begin to sing it, there's an anointing that falls on it... It brings the people of God into the presence of God," Billingsley said.

Doucette is a graduate student at Liberty who is working on his master's in Music and Worship

studies. He will graduate in 2010. For more information on Doucette and a chance to listen to some of his music, visit myspace.com/travisdoucette and twitter.com/travisdoucette.

Charles Billingsley is the worship leader at Thomas Road Baptist Church. He also tours the country ministering through worship concerts. "God of the Ages" is the 18th album that Billingsley has been a part of, and it is his tenth solo project.

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Listen Live — Learn more about Charles Billingsley at charlesbillingsley.com. A free MP3 download of the radio version "God of the Ages" is available on his Web site, and the full album is available on iTunes.

ALL PHOTOS BY ALEX TOWERS

14 17 3 CHARLES BILLINGSLEY God Of The Ages RED TIE 100 +19 0.081 10

Liberty offers veteran-friendly benefits

Melinda Zosh
NEWS REPORTER

This Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, will mark the eighth anniversary of the day terror struck America. Since September 11, a new version of the GI Bill (Ch. 33), which went into effect on Aug. 1, provides an opportunity for servicemen to return to school by providing tuition, fees, housing and book stipends. The funds are based on the number of months the servicemen have been on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

Liberty University is on board, with approximately 400 students receiving the new GI benefits and a total of 2,500 online and residential students receiving veterans affairs benefits, according to Director of Military Affairs Emily Foutz.

The G.I. bill covers the highest in-state tuition of \$326 per credit hour. Since Liberty's tuition is higher than the listed amount, the school has "entered into a Yellow Ribbon agreement with the VA (Veteran Affairs) that splits the remaining cost of tuition between the school and the VA," according to the Founder of Students Behind Our Soldiers (SBS) Mandi Forth.

"Liberty University is extremely dedicated to serving the brave men and women who serve our country, to make sure that students who are eligible to receive (the) new benefit, would not have to pay anything out of pocket to go to a private institution like Liberty," Forth said.

"We strive to be a military-friendly school," Foutz said. "We do everything we can within our operating budget to reach out to military personnel to make sure they are covered academically and financially. Not all colleges strive to be military-friendly, but we do."

Director of Commuter Affairs Larry Provost, a veteran in the army, agreed with Foutz that Liberty is in the minority, especially in dealing with the new GI Bill, adding that it is "one of the most important pieces of legislation that's ever been passed to affect veterans."

"Liberty University is one of the most veteran-friendly campuses in the world. We have an entire military affairs office... ready and able to assist with GI benefits," Provost said, adding that many campuses

hire only one part-time worker to handle all military affairs.

Liberty established the Office of Military Affairs in 1998 to help current and prospective military students with the academic process. Several months ago, the office hired Forth, a 2009 Liberty alumna, to work as the VA Benefits Representative for the Post Sept. 11, GI Bill (Ch. 33).

Forth handles questions about the new bill from military personnel across the U.S. and overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Forth said that the new bill is "extremely beneficial to those veterans who want to go to school residentially," but she warned veterans to read the small print first.

"It's a benefit that, once you switch to using it, you will relinquish rights to an old benefit, so veterans need to be informed before making a decision," Forth said.

Unlike the former GI Bill, which was called the Montgomery Bill, the money is not allotted as a lump sum, but rather it is based on months served in active duty, according to Forth.

For example, a veteran who served 36 months or more active duty since 9/11/01 receives 100 percent benefits, a soldier serving 30 months receives 90 percent benefits and a soldier serving 90 days receives 40 percent benefits.

"The bill has provided a means for them to be able to get an education," Provost said. "Not only is it helping to pay for school, there's also a housing stipend based on income level of where you live. Veterans I've talked to just absolutely love it."

In Lynchburg, veterans are given approximately \$1100 per month. The stipend is only given to students who are enrolled in at least one residential course at Liberty or elsewhere and at full-time status. Veterans also receive up to a \$1000 per year book stipend, and the VA will pay \$41.76 per credit hour.

If a service member is only eligible for a percentage of the benefits, then he or she will receive the same percentage of the book and housing stipend. "The funds come directly from the VA. The tuition and fees are paid directly to the school, and the housing and book stipends are



GI Benefits — Service members can receive help with their school tuition, housing and fees through benefits from the newly revised GI Bill (Ch. 33).

paid directly to the student.

Forth advises students to apply for the 9/11 Bill with the VA as soon as possible because the process can take up to 12 weeks. The VA then issues a certificate of eligibility, which states the months of entitlement, and the percentage of entitlement to the veteran. Then, the veterans give the document to the Office of Military Affairs and the benefits are processed.

Benefits can also be processed for veterans' children and spouses, according to Foutz. Previously, benefits could only transfer to their dependents, their spouses or to their children if the veterans were disabled or deceased.

"Now that the benefit is expanded, a lot of children can come to school with no out-of-pocket expense," said Foutz. "Under this new benefit, they are able to allow all children to receive up to 36 months of benefits."

If veterans choose to take advantage of the program themselves, a minimum of four credits will transfer for their military training and experience as recommended by the American Council and Education (ACE), according to Foutz. If students are interested in seeing how many credits they will receive, they should follow the steps on the Web site, Foutz said.

In addition to credit and financial

questions, Forth said soldiers should not hesitate to ask other questions.

"We've had a lot of questions and inquiries coming in," said Forth. "Phone calls and e-mails have doubled from month to month."

Veteran Jesse Hogan, who served in the National Guard for three-and-a-half years, said that the GI Bill has assisted with his living and housing expenses.

"If it wasn't for the GI bill, I would have to get a full-time job to support myself," Hogan said. "The GI bill makes it so that I can concentrate on school and my military career and not some job."

Liberty University has helped him with this process, according to Hogan, who served in Iraq for six months.

"The military affairs office usually fixes all my problems," Hogan said. "They also do their best to keep that stuff from happening in the first place but sometimes they can't prevent it."

Hogan said the enrollment process can sometimes be more difficult than handling the GI Bill paperwork.

"A lot of office people aren't on the same page, and soldiers have problems with their accounts and classes every time they register," Hogan said.

Despite the enrollment process

Hogan likes that Liberty "works with military personnel." He makes and sends care packages to deployed soldiers, and he helps raise money for SBS.

"If I can't be over there fighting, I will do whatever I can here to support my boys overseas," said Hogan.

According to Forth, some veterans who are now Liberty students are in their early to mid 20s, but there's one difference between their classmates and themselves — they've already been to war and back.

But some Liberty students have not made it back.

"Two of our students have actually been killed in recent years — Jesse Strong, a graduate, and Crystal Stout, an online student," Foutz said. "For the most part, a lot of them have come out and been able to go on with their lives."

Students like Hogan respect the soldiers and their sacrifices.

"Those soldiers make everything we have here in America possible," Hogan said. "They are our guardian angels. They go over there, fight and die without thinking twice so people here in the states don't have to."

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FOOTBALL B3

Jake Petersen scores the football team's performance at the WVU game.

COMMENTARY

A review of Big South football action and upcoming games.

B2

Sports



FLAMES TAKE RESPECTABLE LOSS AGAINST WVU



PHOTO BY ALEX TOMASEL

GAINING RESPECT



Jordan LoSoya
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

MORGANTOWN, WV — If West Virginia did not know Mike Brown coming into the game, they did after his 33-yard one-handed reception along the sideline, with a spin move to break free from the grasps of the defender to gain several more yards.

Mike Brown's reception led to a fourth and two conversion attempt. After a breakdown in Mountaineer coverage, Brown once again provided a spark with a swing pass that he turned into a 20-yard touchdown reception to tie the game 10-10 with 12:52 to play in the first half. Although the Flames lost the game 33-20, they proved they had the ability to contend with a top Big East foe.

"People think, 'Oh here comes an FCS (Football Championship Series) school, but Mike Brown can play. You know their

quarterback (Tommy Beecher) played for Steve Spurrier, so I tell you, they can play." Mountaineers' Head Coach Bill Stewart said.

The Flames offense and special teams relied heavily on Mike Brown, who finished the game with 11 receptions for 157 yards, 107 kick return yards and 271 all-purpose yards — all three game highs. In the final minutes of the game, Brown also rushed for a touchdown to close the gap to 33-20.

"Brown is a fierce competitor and that has to be the first thing said about him. He is a multi-talented athlete and can play a number of different positions. Whenever we say, 'Who do we want to do this job?' the first answer is always Michael Brown. If we said, 'Who do we want to put at cornerback?' we would probably say Michael Brown," Liberty Head Coach Danny Rocco said. Liberty could have used the

help defensively in the first half. On West Virginia's first drive of the second quarter, Liberty gave up two third down conversions, a third-and-18 being the longer of the two. The drive resulted in a Mountaineer touchdown and a permanent lead after going up 20-10.

"That is always a sick feeling to have a team third and long, almost a sure fire way to get off the field, and they squeeze out one more play. We were giving that quarterback too much time. He was having all day to look around and throw," Liberty linebacker Wes Cheek said. "That kid (Jarrett Brown) had seven to eight seconds to throw the ball, and it's hard to cover anybody that long."

Mountaineer quarterback Jarrett Brown demonstrated on those two plays what the Flames struggled with all day. Liberty was not able to tackle the ball carriers consistently, especially

Noel Devine and Jarrett.

"I never imagined we would not be able to get Jarrett Brown to the ground. He is a big athlete. Usually these bigger athletes don't quite have the mobility that I witnessed. I don't want to make any comparisons to Pat White (Mountaineer quarterback drafted in the third round in 2009) and embarrass myself, but he did those kinds of things," Rocco said. "He was in a league of his own, and we couldn't get him to the ground. Obviously, Noel Devine is a special player. Those two guys played as advertised."

See FOOTBALL on B3

Lady Flames battle it out at invitational

Chris McNair
SPORTS REPORTER

The Lady Flames rocked the Vines Center over the weekend as they hosted the Liberty Invitational, posting wins against East Tennessee State and Howard before falling to Elon in the championship game on Saturday evening.

It was Liberty junior Karyl Bacon's 20th birthday and she celebrated Friday night with a 3-0 sweep over East Tennessee State University (ETSU). With the victory, the Lady Flames evened their record at 2-2 on the sea-

son. They also dropped ETSU of the Atlantic Sun Conference to 0-4.

Fellow junior Nicki Scripko led the charge for the Lady Flames hitting a career-high .692 attack percentage with a season-best 18 kills. Her performance sparked the Flames offensive attack and led to the sweep.

The Flames were able to bounce back this week from two losses at the hands of Montana and Virginia Tech last week.

"We just really concentrated on executing and some of our blocking this week in

practice. It was great to see the girls respond and come out tonight and get a solid victory against a good program," Pinder said.

Along with Scripko, Bacon was a lightning bolt for the Flames. Her "above-the-net" play gave her teammates a boost and elevated the rest of the team to the same level.

"When I recruited her, I named her my 'Little David' because she's not big in stature but she plays like she's 6 feet tall," Pinder said.

According to Pinder, Bacon's value to the program is more than her athletic ability. She

also anchors the team emotionally.

On Saturday, the Flames stomped over Howard, sweeping them in the process for their second sweep of the tournament and third this season. Senior Chelaine McCarty propelled the Lady Flames with 10 kills and an attack percentage of .692.

There were some things McCarty felt she needed to work on from last week in order to be more effective in this weekend's tournament.

See VOLLEYBALL on B2

LIBERTY VS. WESTERN CAROLINA

First home game of the season
Saturday, September 12 @ 7p.m.

Loss gives Flames confidence heading into Big South action

COMMENTARY

Axel Cerny
SPORTS REPORTER

West Virginia Head Coach Bill Stewart wrapped up most of his thoughts on yesterday's game by saying, "We got a win, and that's what it's all about," pointing to the struggles that the Mountaineers had with the Christian university from Lynchburg.

As a Flames player, coach or fan reflecting on the 33-20 loss in Morgantown, WVa., those are encouraging words — words that show Liberty football is prepared for a 2009 campaign. The Flames can only lose one more game if they want to match their stellar record of a year ago, which controversially did not send them into postseason play.

Obviously, any coach with a track record like Danny Rocco does not like to lose, but getting into a dog-fight on the road with one of the stronger programs in the Football Bowl Series (FBS) is nothing to be ashamed of, and by taking a quick glance at the other Big South games this opening weekend, 2009 looks to be another bright year in the Rocco Era.

Only two of the seven Big South teams that played this past weekend picked up a win, and all but three battled Division I-AA teams. The only team matching up against a foe more notable than the Mountaineers was Charleston Southern, who couldn't find the end zone in their 62-3 demolition at the hands of the reigning national champion Florida Gators. Instead of seizing the sterling opportunity that the reigning Big South champion Flames left for their conference opponents, who played the strongest competition they should face all year, only two teams will start off this year with a better record than the Flames.

The other two squads beginning the year at 1-0, Gardner-

Webb and VMI, racked up their victories against a couple notably weaker opponents. Gardner-Webb beat up on Division-II school, Mars Hill, 58-14. VMI, on the other hand, squeaked out a 14-13 win over Robert Morris, whom went 5-6 last season and is in the NEC.

Furman, whom posted a record of 7-5 last year in the Southern Conference, took down a Presbyterian football team that joined the Big South Conference (BSC) this year. Presbyterian's 45-21 loss to the Paladins is a good sign for the Flames, who suffered one of two losses last season in a 31-28 heartbreaker at home against Presbyterian, who was not yet a member of the BSC. The Flames and the Blue Hose will be squaring off on Halloween at Presbyterian in what could be one of Liberty's biggest games of the year.

One of the top predicted pre-season contenders with Liberty for the Big South crown, Coastal Carolina, faced a tough match up in FBS opponent Kent State, but getting blanked 18-0 by a MAC squad did not speak well for its Big South hopes, and is precisely the opposite of what Liberty accomplished on Saturday afternoon.

In the last Big South game played this weekend, Stony Brook



New addition — Liberty students catch game day action of the West Virginia-Liberty match-up on Williams Stadium's high-definition scoreboard.

(second in the BSC last year) was downed 17-10 by Hofstra, who hails from the CAA.

As for the Flames, Rocco is determined to keep his team's focus on next week's game against North Carolina Central. Fans can be sure that the coaches and players who were around for last year's snub from the postseason gained some confidence for this year's chances watching the strong effort in the defeat against West Virginia. Hopefully this effort can set a precedent for a Flames team that wants nothing more than to pile on to the recent successes that have become known as the Rocco Era.

Contact Axel Cerny at axelcerny@gmail.com.

VOLLEYBALL *continued*

"All week, I've been really working on making sure I get in chase position for the slide and just hitting off hands because last weekend I didn't do such a good job at that," McCarty said.

The win puts Liberty at 3-2 on the season, while Howard remained winless at 0-6.

Only Elon stood in the Lady Flames' way to a championship on Saturday evening. Elon overcame a fast start by the Lady Flames to eventually capture the tournament title with a hard-fought 3-1 victory.

Liberty senior setter Kallie Corbin reached a pair of career milestones, recording her 4,000th career assist and her 50th career double double. Corbin became the fourth Lady Flame to reach the 4,000-career assist

plateau.

McCarty was also instrumental in the Lady Flames' quick start. She served for four points, which included two aces, also adding an assist and a block during their 7-1 burst out of the gate.

Liberty's relentless defense keyed early success, as they finished the first stanza with 20 kills and three blocks, holding the Phoenix to a dismal .026 attack percentage.

The momentum of the match changed dramatically after Bacon went down with an injury. After finishing off a 3-0 Liberty run with back-to-back kills lifting the Flames to a 17-16 edge, Bacon, in an attempt to keep a ball headed out of bounds in play, made contact with the post and fell awkwardly on her ankle. She

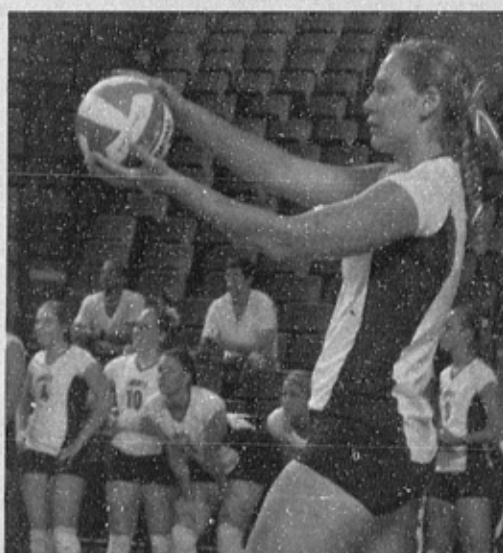
was sidelined for the remainder of the match.

Elon immediately took advantage of Bacon's absence, turning a 21-21 tie into a 25-23 victory in the second set.

It was clear that Bacon's absence affected the Flames' performance. Coach Pinder was forced to call on younger, more inexperienced players, and as a result lost their only match on the tournament.

"I think they pressured us and got us uncomfortable with their serve, and we didn't do a good job of pressuring them with our

serve. They were loading on Nicki, putting double blocks on her all night, and she didn't score as much as I thought she would in this match," Pinder said.



ELI OVERBEY

Corbin and McCarty were both voted to the All-Tournament team. This is the second time Corbin has earned her spot on an all-tournament team.

"It's an honor to be recognized for anything, but I have to give it back to God for giving me the talent," Corbin said.

"It's exciting to be honored with as many good players as there were in the gym," McCarty said.

The Lady Flames finished the tournament with a record of 2-1, and return to action Friday at 5 p.m. versus undefeated Toledo (6-0), in their first of three weekend matches at the Louisville Tournament.

Contact Chris McNair at cjmcnair@liberty.edu.

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Making the grade

Jake Petersen
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite starting its season in the hostile confines of Milan Puskar Stadium at West Virginia University on Saturday, the Liberty Flames football team turned the heads of many with its stellar play throughout its first game of the season, hanging with the Mountaineers through most of the contest before eventually falling 33-20. Facing a perennially dominant Big East team like West Virginia was the perfect opportunity for the Flames to showcase their hidden talent to 57,950 screaming fans, and also to solidify themselves as one of the premier teams in the Football Championship Series (FCS). Here is a breakdown of how the Flames offensive, defensive and special teams units graded out in their first game of the season:

Offense — Unable to establish an effective running game against a tough WVU defense brought to light a glaring weakness in the Flames offensive attack. The Flames racked up a mere 89 yards on the ground, while WVU rushed for 195. In his first game as a Flame, quarterback Tommy Beecher impressed many by completing 22 of 33 passes for 210 yards and one touchdown. Mike Brown was the beneficiary of Beecher's accuracy, as the redshirt sophomore hauled in 11 catches for 157 yards and one touchdown, including a spectacular one-handed grab in first quarter. Brown was the star of the day for the Flames, collecting 271 total yards and two touchdowns. However, the Flames can't rely solely on Brown to get the job done if they want to get to postseason play. Someone else must step up to provide another weapon in head coach Danny Rocco's offensive scheme. Grade: B-

Beecher: "They (WVU) were quick laterally. A lot of our running game plan was to get outside the tackles, but they game-planned us well for that. They were quick to get outside and we couldn't get the lanes we needed."

Defense — Despite facing one of the top running backs in the nation in Noel Devine, the Flames defense shook off the first half jitters and rebounded with a solid performance in the second half. However, missed tackles proved to be a huge problem for a usually tough defensive unit. With the game tied at 10, WVU converted two third-and-long attempts, the second being a 22-yard touchdown run by quarterback Jarrett Brown, disrupting any momentum the Flames had. Brown was also given plenty of time to throw the ball, which he took advantage of by passing for 243 yards and completing 19 of 26 passes, which led to many big plays as the secondary unit was beat deep on a few occasions. The defense did not force any turnovers, but on the positive side, it did force the Mountaineer offense into four field goals, all of which freshman kicker Tyler Bitancourt converted on. The Flames defense failed to capitalize on many of the third down situations it faced, and had they come up with a few more stops, the ball game might have had a different outcome. Grade: C-

Head coach Danny Rocco: "Defensively, I was disappointed. We've played better the last three years. We have outstanding defensive talent. We were just a little short today. We were late, and we didn't tackle well. We had many opportunities where we were breaking on throws and we had guys in good positions but we weren't tackling. We are going to have to play better defense if we are going to have a championship-type season."

Special Teams — Proving that all the hype surrounding Mike Brown is true, Brown did not disappoint in the special teams area. After WVU kicked a field goal on its opening drive, Brown fielded the ensuing kickoff from the Mountaineer four-yard line, maneuvered his way through the special teams unit, and broke out to the 49-yard line, good for a 45-yard return. The Flames offense responded by knocking down a field goal of its own as Matt Bevins nailed a 32-yarder to tie things up at three. With the Flames down 20-10, Brown nearly brought one all the way back for a touchdown, but was tackled at the WVU 42-yard line by kicker Josh Lider and linebacker Ovid Goulbourne. For the day, Brown took three kickoffs for 107 yards, as he and true freshman Aldreakis Allen split time fielding returns. Bevins was perfect on the day as he knocked down both of his field goal attempts, highlighted by a career-best 49-yarder

at the 5:01 mark in the third quarter. Grade: A+

Danny Rocco: "I made the decision in February to change our kickoff return. I knew West Virginia would put a lot of time and energy into covering kicks, so we put in a very unique and unusual return scheme that I wanted to open the game with. They were preparing for a sideline return, but I gave them a middle-wedge. Then we were going back and forth."

LIBERTY FLAMES Score card

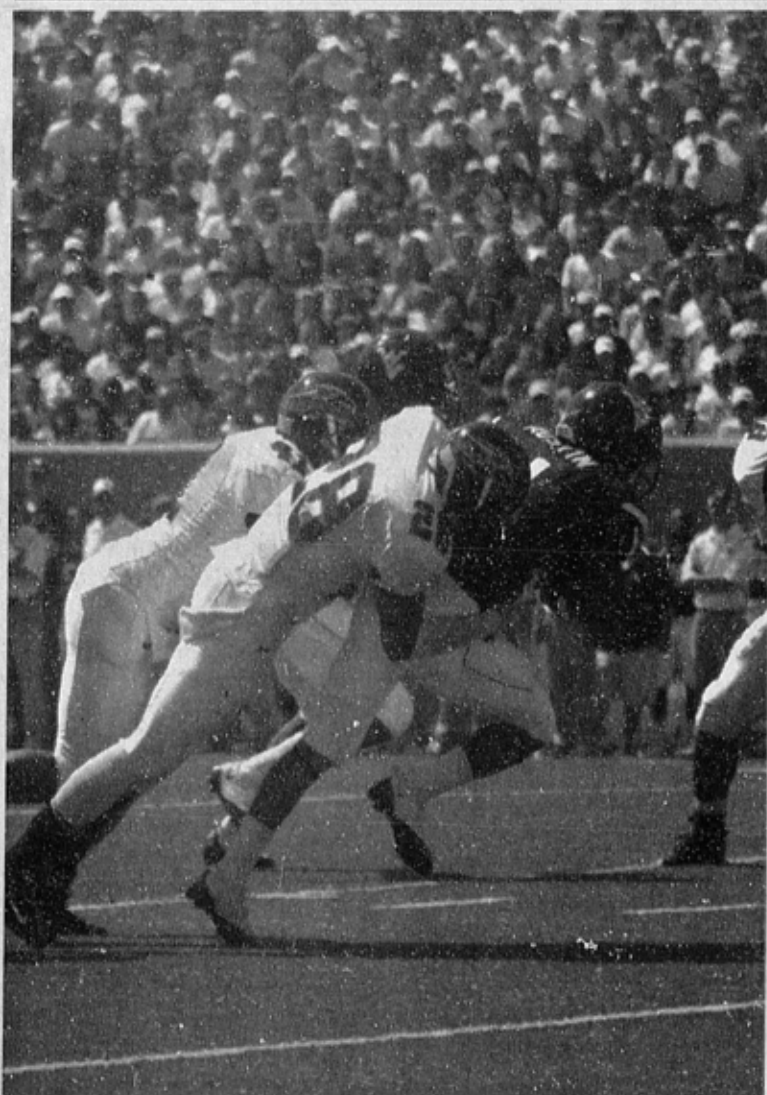
Offense	B-
Defense	C-
Special Teams	A+

"The most encouraging thing to me was we answered scores. That does show some character within your program. We had confidence and had character, and when we had to answer scores we answered them."

-Head Coach Danny Rocco

Contact Jake Petersen
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More photos from the WVU game



Kajuan Lee (28) wraps up West Virginia wide receiver Tavon Austin for one of his six tackles during the Flames season opener in Morgantown on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY ALEX TOWERS



Daryl Robertson (96) puts the pressure on Mountaineer quarterback Jarrett Brown.

FOOTBALL continued

The Flames defense improved after half-time adjustments, becoming more aggressive and blitzing more. Liberty held the Mountaineers to only 10 points and 140 yards. However, a West Virginia two-play drive in the fourth quarter extinguished the Flames attempts at a comeback.

Jarrett completed a 38-yard pass to Jock Sanders, and Devine scored on a 24-yard rush to increase the advantage to 33-13.

"We played a lot better in the second half with the exception of that two-play drive. We settled down and the jitters were gone. Whenever I think of our defense that's what I think of, not that first half debacle," Liberty Captain Chris Rocco said. "That first half defensively was embarrassing."

Despite being paid \$365,000 to essentially lose, the Flames had different expectations.

Rocco echoed that sentiment. "It's hard to believe that we came in here expecting to win, but every guy in that locker room expected to win that game," he said.

What was not embarrassing was Liberty's ability to answer West Virginia offensively in the first half, and Tommy Beecher's resilience in the pocket. On the Flames' first drive Liberty needed a third down conversion to match West Virginia's opening field goal. Beecher ran the ball for 16 yards after the pocket collapsed, which was a recurring theme throughout the game. On his slide, a Mountaineer hit Beecher in the head, knocking his helmet off. The 15-yard penalty put Liberty in field goal range, which allowed them to tie the game 3-3.

"Beecher is a tough guy. I haven't seen a quarterback get hit like that in a long time,"

Mike Brown said. "The most encouraging thing to me was we answered scores," Coach Rocco said. "That does show character within your program."

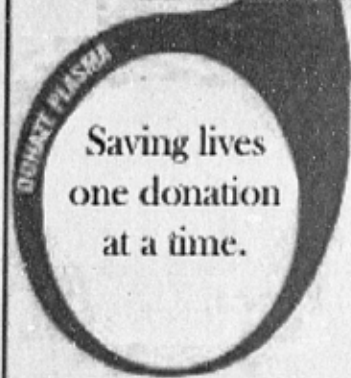
The Beecher-to-Mike Brown connection answered again with the one-handed grab and 20-yard swing pass for a touchdown.

"Beecher's a competitor. He took shot after shot, and Mike's a competitor. With these two guys we are going to be tough to beat because they won't let us lose. We knew that about Mike and Tommy was a little bit new, but these are the types of guys you want leading your football team," Chris Rocco said.

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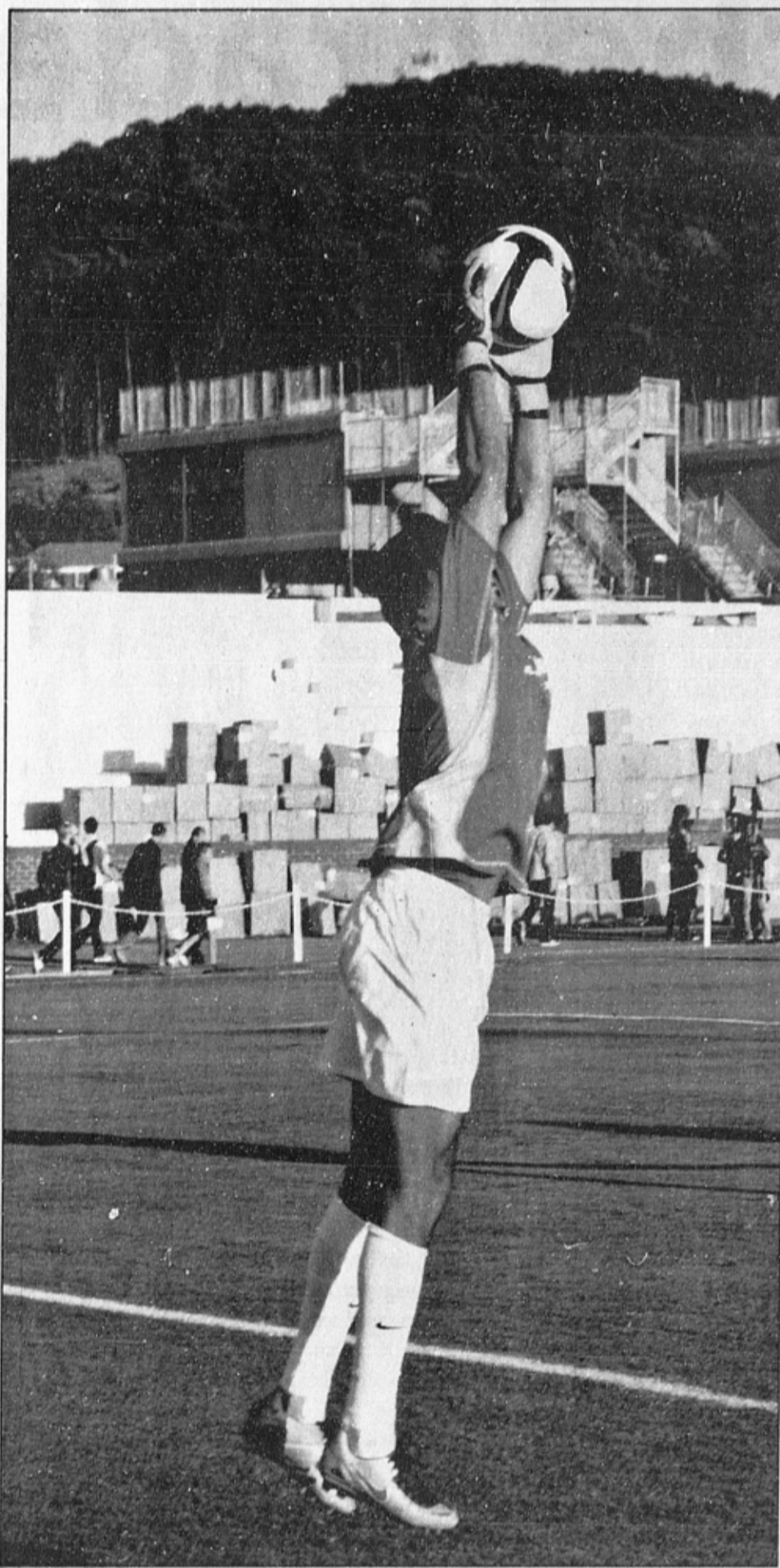
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Flames roll Concord 10-1 in season opener



PHOTOS BY ELI OVERBEY

Brittany Barclay
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames men's soccer team opened up its home schedule last Monday with a dominating victory, defeating the Concord Mountain Lions, 10-1, at Osborne Stadium.

"Obviously we weren't trying to run the score up, but we were able to play 22 to 23 of our guys and still run our initial patterns and concepts of our scheme," Head Coach Jeff Alder said after the win.

Many players on the roster had the opportunity to shine in the game. Redshirt sophomore forward Darren Amoo, who missed a large part of the 2008 season due to injury, scored two goals, while sophomore forward Phillip Aseweh also netted two goals, including his first as a Flame. Timothy Bullock also recorded two goals on the evening as the Flames rolled easily to victory, moving their record to 1-1 on the season.

The second half brought the Flames more success than the first, as the Flames were able to find the back of the net eight times and ran away with the match.

"Even though the score was a little lopsided in Tuesday's match, the game was a great barometer to measure where we're at as a team and where we want to go," sophomore Alex Verville said.

In the 84th minute of play, Concord man-

aged to breach the scoreboard when Ivan Deyanov spotted Alex Ryan with a pass into open area on the left side. But with the

Flames up 9-1, the goal hardly put a dent in the Flames lead, and it proved to be too little, too late for the Mountain Lions.

"I think we won't see another team like this, so it was good to take advantage of the situation," captain Juan Guzman said.

Having this win under its belt, the men's soccer team remains to be united. Stomping through the highs and lows that playing teams with different styles brings, the Flames are able to recognize the benefit of all their practicing.

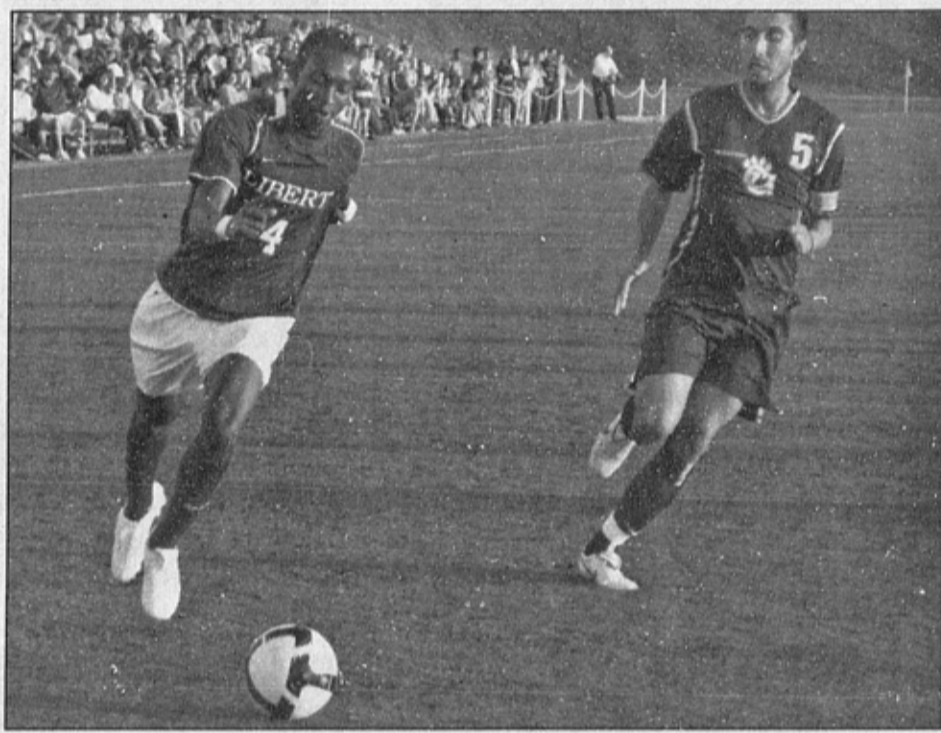
"It was good for them to get rewarded for the hard work that they put in every day," Alder said.

"Our fans are great. It was so good to start our home schedule the way we did with such great support from our fans," Guzman said. "They are really inspiring and the spark that ignites a fire on the field. I am honored to be captain of this team. It is such a privilege."

Next for the Flames is a home game against Appalachian State on Sept. 7. Following Appalachian State is Liberty's second away game of the season against Rider on Sept. 11.

"This will be a great test for us to see where we're at," Alder said.

Contact Brittany Barclay at bmbarcly@liberty.edu.



Flames take 2nd at Hokie Invitational

Jeffery Scott
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty Flames men's and women's cross country teams both looked to start the 2009 season off on the right foot Friday as they competed at the Virginia Tech Relays in Blacksburg, Va.

The defending Big South Champion men's squad enters the season in hopes of defending that title for the fifth year in a row, while the women's team will look to capture the Big South title after finishing second behind Coastal Carolina by one point in 2008.

The men's team will look to top performers Sam Chelanga (pictured at right) and Evans Kigen to lead the charge this season. Chelanga, who won five out of six races last year and is considered one of the best runners in the nation, finished in second place at last year's NCAA National Championship when he posted a time of 29:08 in the 10K event. Kigen, a transfer from the New York Institute of Technology who redshirted last season but ran with the Flames track and field team, nor Chelanga have been defeated in a collegiate invitational race.

Three other runners that could contribute include sophomore Will Reeves, sophomore

transfer from Biola University David Ricksecker, and freshman Andrew Rigler. Reeves and Ricksecker ran 4:19 indoors in the mile last season and head coach Brant Tolsma expects them to help the team significantly in the fall cross-country campaign.

The Women's team looks to rebound from the second place Big South finish they received last year. Only three points separated them and third place High Point last season, and the same type of intense competition is expected from the top teams again this year.

The Lady Flames top returning runner this season is junior Dacia Bushman, who placed sixth in the Big South as a freshman and 11th as a sophomore. Redshirt sophomore Katie Albright looks to rebound from ankle injury that kept her sidelined last season. As a freshman Albright finished eighth at the Big South meet in 2007.

Tolsma expects them to be the front-runners to lead the team to a Big South Championship.

"Those girls have all run under 18 minutes at one time or another in the 5,000 meters," Tolsma said. "So on paper, they are our top three runners. However there are several girls who look ready to challenge.

Both the men's and women's cross country teams started the 2009 season off on the right foot Friday as they competed at the Virginia Tech Relays in Blacksburg, Va., as each squad finished second behind host Virginia Tech.

The top runners in the women's relay were Albright and redshirt freshman Jennifer Klugh with a time of 38:12 in the 10K meter race. The top men's pair for Liberty were Ricksecker and Reeves, who ran a time of 45:48 with each running a pair of 3.5K legs.

"I was pleased with mostly everyone. I still don't like losing, though," Tolsma said. "But it was good to beat Radford. Our better runners didn't run, but the others were very close. This wasn't a high pressure meet, but it was good that we could assess where everyone is."

He also was impressed with the depth of the women's team, who posted very strong times.

"Jennifer Klugh is our top runner, but there were nine other girls that were close in their times," Tolsma said.

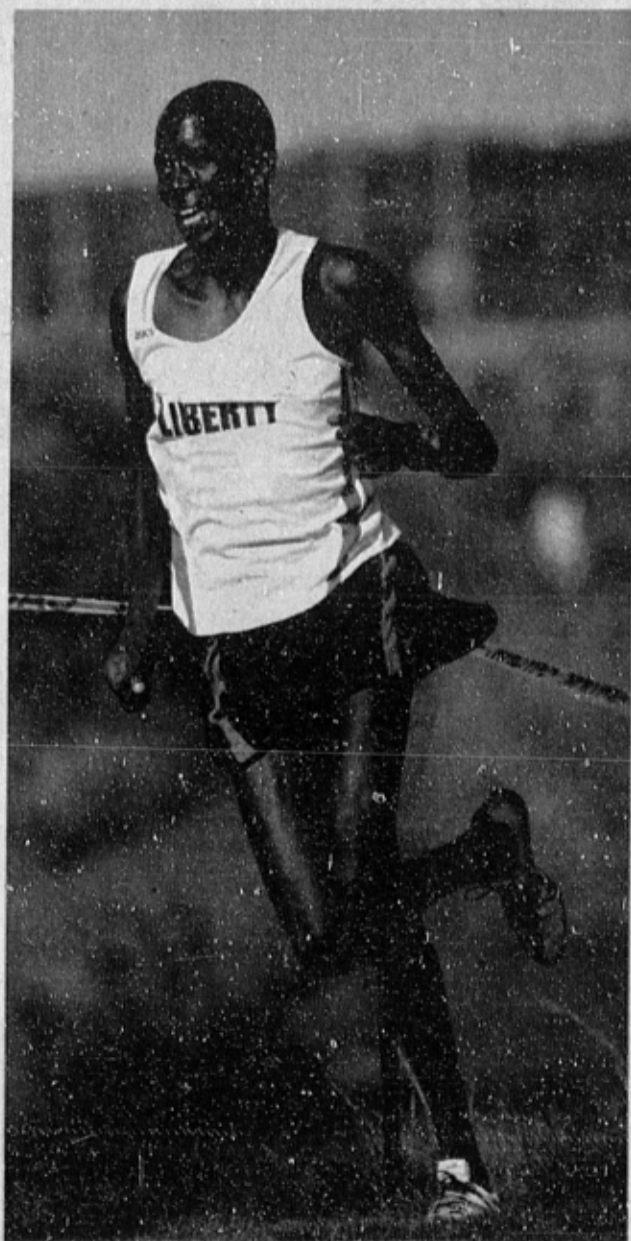
Though they did well in the opener, Tolsma knows

the best competition is yet to come.

"All our important meets aren't until October, but it will be good to see what the competition is like."

The Big South Preview meet is scheduled for Sept. 19 in Winston-Salem, N.C. The cross-country schedule for both teams in October is stacked, with the Hagan Stone Park Classic on Oct. 3, the Pre-Nationals on the Oct. 17, and the Big South Championship on Oct. 31, which will also be held in Winston Salem.

Contact Jeffery Scott at jdscott@liberty.edu.



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GET DOWNTOWN!

What: Get Downtown
Who: All Lynchburg area college students
When: Friday Sept. 11 from 6-9 p.m.
Where: Main Street, Lynchburg
Why: So college students can experience all that Lynchburg has to offer

Camille Smith
 FEATURE REPORTER

There is more to Lynchburg than Liberty. Lynch's Landing, along with the colleges and universities in the Lynchburg area, is telling students to leave their dorm rooms and get downtown, literally, at the first Get Downtown street festival.

While Lynchburg is not widely known as a college town, there are six colleges in and around the city that bring the town to life every fall. These colleges and universities are collaborating with Lynch's Landing and other businesses in the area to bring new and returning students together for the first time.

The event will take place on Main Street from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 11, and preparations are well underway to make this an unforgettable night. Angela Hamilton, executive director of Lynch's Landing, is helping to organize the event and looks forward to getting the students together.

"This is an opportunity to show off down-

town to the thousands of college students who spend nine months out of the year here with us in Lynchburg," Hamilton said.

According to Hamilton, Lynch's Landing is a nonprofit organization that has been charged with the revitalization of downtown Lynchburg. She believes events like this one will introduce students to a side of Lynchburg off of their respective campuses.

"This is going to be a street festival that will have live music from some of the participating schools and fashion shows. There will be vendors with food, crafts and shopping, and all of the stores and restaurants in the downtown area will be open to the students," Hamilton said.

Main Street will be closed a block up from the Community Market down to the Holiday



ELLI OVERBEY

Inn and will be packed with entertainment. When the street festival ends, the after party will just be getting started.

According to Hamilton, students can choose from two after parties, both starting at 9 p.m. The first will take place at the Academy of Fine Arts, where artists Farewell Flight and Paul Brunett will be performing a live concert for a cover charge of \$5 with a student ID.

The second after party will be at Inklings Bookshop and the White Hart Café where WestBound, a band from Newport News, Va., will perform. There will be no cover charge and students will receive a 10 percent discount off all food at the café with their student ID.

"We are going to be handing out some type of card that has our social networking

addresses on it and our e-mail address," Debi Hopkins, owner of The White Hart café, said. "Any students who sign up within a week after the event will get a code to come on down and get a free coffee or drink."

Get Downtown has added vendors and entertainment every day and has a Web site that will be updated with each change according to Hamilton. For more information go to www.getdowntownlynchburg.com.

Contact Camille Smith at cjsmith3@liberty.edu.

Dining hall combats unhealthy eating habits

Emily DeFosse
 FEATURE EDITOR

The freshman 15 is an enemy waiting to attack students regardless of race, gender, sex, religion or class. Thankfully, the Reber Thomas Dining Hall is working feverishly to vanquish the fattening foe. Resident District Manager Chuck Faulkinberry is working to raise students' awareness about the healthy options the dining hall has to offer.

"In the past we've had a lot of healthy options but we've not really gotten the word out," Faulkinberry said.

Students can request to be taken on a food tour to learn about healthy options at the dining hall.

"We give the students the opportunity to walk around with a manager to look at all the stations and understand what healthy options are at the stations," Faulkinberry said.

Production manager Jeanie Griffis explained that healthy eating is not just about having healthy options. It is even more important to make healthy choices in portion control.

"Instead of taking two containers of fries, only take one," Griffis said.

Many options at the dining hall are healthier than students realize.

"Our hamburgers are a healthier burger than most fast food restaurants," Faulkinberry said. "It's a 90/10 burger which means it's almost all protein. It's flame-broiled so most of the fat comes out of it."

The employees working behind the counters have all been trained to answer students' questions about the nutrition of the food they are eating.

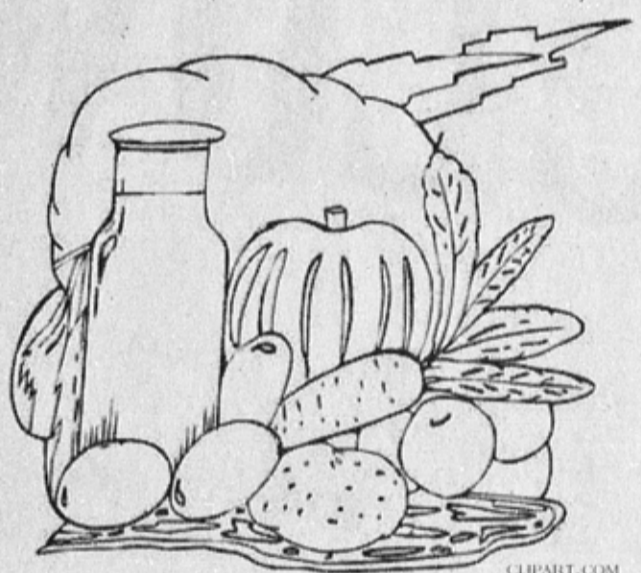
"If (the students) want something without a certain ingredi-

ent in it, or want to get an extra piece of this or that, our folks have all been well trained this year to help our students," Faulkinberry said.

New beverage options were also added. Soy milk, which has always been available by request, is now available all the time. Flavored waters are also available for students who may not enjoy the taste of plain water.

"We have healthy, fortified waters. They are flavored to encourage students to drink more water," Faulkinberry said. "But it's zero calories so it is a healthy beverage alternative to soda."

Contact Emily DeFosse at ebdefosse@liberty.edu.



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2009 Outstanding Parent Award

Camille Smith
 FEATURE REPORTER

Liberty will be presenting the Outstanding Parent Award to recognize those parents who have gone above and beyond for their child.

Director of Parent and Family Connections Theresa Dunbar explained that students who want to honor their parents for all they have done can nominate them for this award. The student must type an original essay of 250-500 words, double-spaced, answering these questions:

- How have your parent(s) encouraged and supported your Liberty University education?
- How have your parent(s) provided opportunities by serving as a role model or making personal sacrifices to benefit you or others?
- What makes your parent(s) different from others?
- Have there been any extraordinary events or circumstances separating your parent(s) from others?

Essays must be submitted no later than noon on Sept. 25, 2009 as an email attachment to parents@liberty.edu.

The winning student will receive 150 meal points and their parents will win a two-night stay in the Liberty Mansion Bed and Breakfast for the family weekend on Oct. 30-31.

Contact Camille Smith at cjsmith3@liberty.edu.

Avoiding unnecessary roommate conflict in the new semester



TIFFANY EDWARDS

CAUTION — Roommates can get into arguments over room cleanliness, among other things.

Dena ten Pas
 FEATURE REPORTER

One of the biggest transitions in college is learning how to live with a stranger. This can be the start of amazing new friendships, but it can also create life-long enemies.

When conflicts between roommates arise, it is easy to simply ignore the problems that seem small, but ignoring small problems can cause even bigger problems in the future. Roommates begin arguing for a variety of reasons, but whatever the circumstances, according to Resident Student Advocate Gabriel Wasson, it usually boils down to unmet expectations. Students come from a variety of backgrounds, which can sometimes cause friction when students from two vastly different backgrounds begin living together.

The Office of Student Leadership's policy states that the student should first talk to the other student involved, and involve their resident assistant (RA) or spiritual life director (SLD) if the conflict remains unresolved. The policy refer-

ences Philippians 2:3-4 for a student's approach to dealing with conflict.

Wasson advises students to involve the Student Advocate Office after attempting to resolve the conflict on their own or with their RA. The Student Advocate Office is available to mediate conflicts and help end the dispute peacefully, according to Wasson.

"We advocate for the problem to help you find the resolution," Wasson said.

The best time to deter potential conflict is at the beginning of the semester. Senior Anna Cribb, RA on Dorm 21, believes communication is the way to avoid conflict.

"When an issue comes up, talk about it and get those things out there," Cribb said. "In any situation, everyone has to have the mindset that nobody is perfect."

Respectful, courteous and considerate communication is the key to avoiding late-night yelling sessions.

"Don't expect (your roommate) to understand right away," Wasson said. "We encourage students to be a little gracious with one another."

Lack of personal space, differing sleep patterns and sharing personal property lead the list of common roommate conflicts.

Wasson suggests talking about topics of potential conflict with roommates at the start of the year and drawing up a room contract. By talking about issues, such as what possessions can be shared and discussing expectations conflicts can be prevented.

"You can choose to work through any situation," Cribb said.

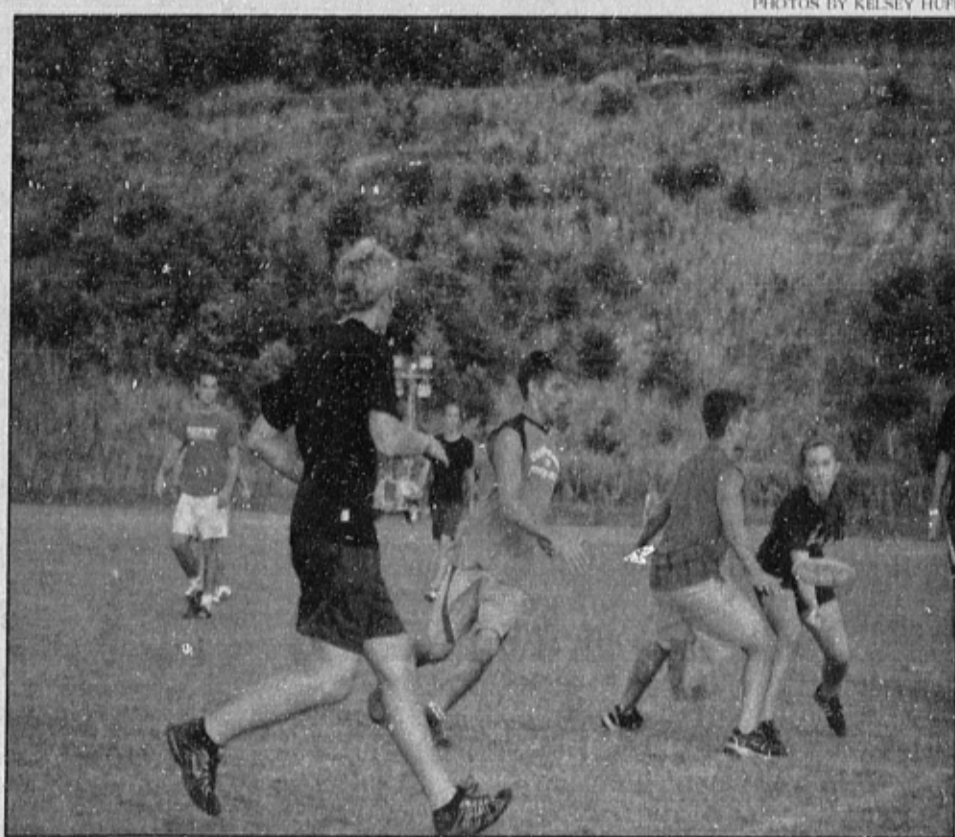
Roommate conflicts cannot be avoided entirely, but by taking advantage of the resources available, students can keep arguments to a minimum.

A number of resources are available to help students deal with roommate disputes. The Student Advocate Office and Office of Student Leadership are ready to help and advise using Matthew 18:15-20 as a guideline for dealing with problems.

Contact Dena ten Pas at dtenpas@liberty.edu.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE TOURNAMENT

— The "Fresh City Flicks" won this weekend's Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. For more information on intramural sports visit www.liberty.edu/ultimateLU or call (434) 592-3145.



PHOTOS BY KELSEY HUFF

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