
2008 – 2009

Liberty University School Newspaper

Spring 4-7-2009

04-07-09 (The Liberty Champion, Volume 26, Issue 20)

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/paper_08_09

Recommended Citation

"04-07-09 (The Liberty Champion, Volume 26, Issue 20)" (2009). *2008 – 2009*. 21.
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/paper_08_09/21

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Liberty University School Newspaper at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2008 – 2009 by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.



Friend us on facebook or follow us on twitter for up-to-date information. Add us to your RSS feed list for weekly web updates.

Join Oasis Church plant for their launch day!
April 12 • 10:30 am • Amherst County High School
Call 540.460.1261 for more info.
oasischurch

LIBERTYCHAMPION

LIBERTY.EDU/CHAMPION • TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 • VOL. 26 ISSUE 20

NEWS BRIEFS

» CALIPARI TO HEAD THE 'CATS

Former Memphis Head Coach John Calipari jumped ship in Memphis to take a whopping eight year, \$31.65 million offer from the University of Kentucky, making him the highest paid coach in college basketball, according to SI.com. Calipari went 137-14 over the last four years and led the Tigers to four-straight Sweet 16 appearances.

» EARTHQUAKE

Central Italy awoke to a 5.8 magnitude earthquake that killed 91, injured 1,500 and left thousands more homeless, according to the Associated Press. The earthquake hit L'Aquila and the surrounding towns in the Appennine Valley region, destroying and damaging several historic buildings in the area.

» THREE MASS SHOOTINGS

Thirteen people were executed Friday, after Japanese immigrant Jiverly Voong went on a shooting rampage at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, N.Y., according to Fox News. Police do not know the reason for the shooting but Voong had recently lost his job at IBM.

Richard Poplawski shot and killed three police officers who were responding to a domestic disturbance call in Pittsburgh, Saturday, according to CBS news. Friends of Poplawski said that he was concerned with losing his right to bear arms.

A Washington man killed himself Saturday after fatally shooting his five children when his wife told him that she was leaving him, according to the Associated Press.

» UNEMPLOYMENT BOOMS

Unemployment has reached its highest rate in the U.S. in 25 years last month, according to the Associated Press. More than 13 million Americans are currently jobless, accounting for 8.5 percent of the population.



Meet Mihelic

Liberty's new SGA president has a plan to make a difference.

Mandi Forth
NEWS REPORTER

For one week, the SGA candidates debated, handed out flyers and spent time with students trying to encourage the student body to vote. When the voting was over, junior Matt Mihelic won the election for President of the Student Government Association (SGA), with Melinda Zosh securing vice president of student affairs and Taylor Webb vice president of student services.

"This campaign was exciting," SGA senator Jaden Horyn said. "Weeks of planning led to this, and to see the droves of people flood to Matt Mihelic told us our campaign message resonated with the student body."

Mihelic has been accumulating leadership experience since his middle school days where he led a choir group; he then went on to serve on several different youth ministries and held an SGA position when he was at the University of Tennessee. Before he won the election, he was serving as a student senator, chair of the spiritual life committee and doing some work on the budget committee for Liberty's SGA. Now that he is president of SGA, Mihelic says that one of the first things he plans on doing is taking a long nap.

"This week has been absolutely awesome with all the activism and support of friends new and old," Mihelic said. "I am extremely grateful and humbled by being chosen to represent the student voice. Liberty truly is a wonderful place with amazing people."

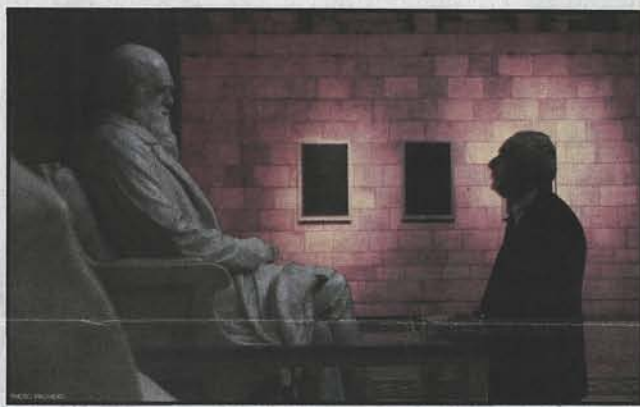
See Mihelic on A6

COMMENCEMENT '09

Ben Stein



Unless you have been "expelled," commencement should leave you with "clear eyes" for your future after an address from Ben Stein.



ACADEMIC FREEDOM—

In a scene from "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," Ben Stein explores the need for freedom in the classroom.

STEIN-OLGY 101

Ben Stein's money — a TV game show gave viewers the chance to prove that they were smarter than Stein and win his money in the process. The show aired from July 28, 1997-Jan. 31, 2003.

Academically Accredited — Stein taught about state law and ethics at Providence University.

Animal Overlord — Stein is the proud owner of three dogs and six cats.

Watching Washington — Ben Stein was childhood friends with Carl Bernstein, who was part of the Watergate reporting duo.

Fraternity — Stein was a member of the Alpha Phi fraternity at Columbia University in 1966.

AMANDA SULLIVAN • LIFE! EDITOR

With the 2008-2009 academic school year coming to a close, seniors have begun preparing for when they will be able to turn their tassels and toss their caps in exultation of graduation. Likewise, the Liberty administration has started to ready for graduation, beginning with the selection of the commencement speaker.

The class of 2009's graduation speaker will be Ben Stein, according to Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr.

The decision-making process began several months ago with a list of 20 prospective speakers. Eventually, the list was whittled down to the top three potential spokespersons.

Falwell's final decision was based on a variety of text-message inquiries that were sent to various seniors, whose responses helped shape the outcome of the decision.

Sophomore Justin Scott and LU Online student Jill Hannity, Sean Hannity's wife, were instrumental in the selection process, according to Falwell. He also said that certain faculty members such as Dr. Elmer Towns, Dean Mat Staver and Liberty Provost Dr. Boyd Rist played important roles in narrowing the speaker list, as did Vice Chancellors Ron Godwin and Jonathan Falwell.

Stein was born on Nov. 4, 1944 in Washington, D.C. to economist and writer Herbert Stein. He graduated from Columbia University in 1966 with honors and a degree in economics. Stein later went on to attend Yale Law School. He graduated from

Yale in 1970, where he was elected valedictorian by his peers, according to his biography at BenStein.com.

The list of Stein's achievements was lengthened when he became a speechwriter and lawyer for Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford during 1973 and 1974, according to the biography. He was also a syndicated columnist for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner and an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal.

Stein's writing career extends beyond the words of his columns and into over 30 books, which consist of both fiction and non-fiction. His non-fiction works were mostly books about finance and his TV experiences. He also authored seven novels, which revolved around a life in Los Angeles.

In conjunction with Stein's writing career, he is also well-known for his occupation as an actor. He is most widely known for his appearance in the "Clear Eyes" commercials. His role in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," in which he played the unenthusiastic economics teacher and spoke the famous words of "Bueller? ... Bueller? ... Bueller?" helped to distinguish him as an actor. More recently, Stein is recognized for his film "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed." The film is a documentary that confronts the idea of evolution.

Stein is the producer and co-writer of the film.

"His work as the nation's most prominent advocate for bringing integrity and academic freedom back to the American scientific community has been legendary," Falwell said.

Despite any differences between Stein and Liberty, Falwell remains optimistic about the class' reception of Stein.

"I believe Liberty will welcome Mr. Stein despite our sharp differences," Falwell said. "His work in exposing how fraudulent science is being used in this country to destroy and advance tyrannical social and political agendas deserves our attention and respect."

"The class of 2009 will likely encounter the fraudulent use of science throughout their careers and must be prepared to recognize it, and combat it," Falwell said.

Liberty students' reactions seem to be aligned with Falwell's optimistic outlook on the school's perception and reception of Stein.

"I really like what Ben Stein has done in the past with his expose of the education system and I think he's going to be a fun speaker," senior Alyssa Hampton said. "I think a lot of students just know him as the comedian, but he really does stand for the same values Liberty stands for and will be a great speaker."

Although the students are eager to hear from Stein, many cannot forfeit the opportunity to include their version of Visme commercial.

"I was surprised to hear he was going to be the speaker, because I had heard it was a tie between Sarah Palin and some famous football coach, but if I can't hear Sarah Palin I'll pick the Visme guy over some football coach I've never heard of any day," senior Morgan Shearn said. "I'm just hoping he doesn't always sound like he does in commercials because I will not be able to keep a straight face through 30 minutes of that."

Contact Amanda Sullivan at
amsullivan3@liberty.edu

DOWNTOWN SHOOTINGS CAUSE SAFETY CONCERNS

Matthew Coleman
NEWS REPORTER

Students often find reasons to spend time in downtown Lynchburg — from the locally owned coffee shops to the unique backdrops for photo shoots — but recent violence should be striking caution.

Four unrelated shootings have taken place in the downtown Lynchburg area since March, with arrests in three of the four cases and no reported fatalities. While this is a high number of shootings in a relatively short period of time for the city of Lynchburg, it is not considered unusual, according to Lynchburg Police Lieutenant Randy Houck.

"From time to time, we have run into this in this city," Houck said. "With so many (shootings) so close together, it may make it seem like it's more significant than it otherwise would be."

See Downtown on A3



ENGAGED — Students engaged to be married often choose to have their photos taken downtown in the mix of scenery.

LIBERTY etc...

LUNCH WITH A PROFESSOR

Sarah Blanzzy
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University's purpose is to raise up champions for Christ, and in the spirit of that goal, Commuter Affairs recently implemented the Lunch With a Professor program.

The idea was read about in an academic study and Vice President Mark Hine, Dr. Boyd Rist and Liberty Dining approved of it.

The program allows at least four students and a professor to visit the Reber Thomas

Dining Hall for an interactive lunch where the students must still purchase their meal, but the professor is treated to a free lunch, compliments of Liberty Dining.

While the program has already been implemented, not many students know about it, and Commuter Affairs plans to promote it this fall.

Liberty Administration desires to promote academic and spiritual excellence, according to Larry Provost, director of Commuter Affairs. This program is an important component for interaction between faculty and students.

PROFESSOR'S LUNCH IS ON LIBERTY DINING, STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM WISDOM

Provost recognizes that much learning takes place outside the classroom and many students get their spiritual insight as well as academic knowledge from their professors. He said that this program was designed to encourage professors and students to connect outside of the classroom.

"We have told faculty that this is not to, possibly, get a free meal, but rather a way to pour into their students academically and spiritually," Provost said.

Contact Sarah Blanzzy at
seblanzzy@liberty.edu.

Marketing team places third

Caroline Harrison
NEWS REPORTER

"Capturing life's lasting memories creatively" is the tagline that a team of Liberty's marketing students developed as part of their integrated marketing communications plan for the Kodak Gallery in the American Marketing Association (AMA) Collegiate Case competition.

The team won third place for its proposal taking home a plaque, \$1,500 and invaluable experience. "The team came back very excited about ideas for how to grow the marketing association," advisor to the team, Kendrick Brunson said. The team made its proposal before a panel of Kodak executives on March 26 along with seven other finalists. The University of Pennsylvania took first place for the fourth consecutive year. Liberty was one of three universities that were first time finalists.

"This outcome of getting to go to this competition is going to engender national recognition," SMA Faculty Advisor Paul

Young said.

Achieving national recognition was a goal included in the marketing department's five-year plan, according to Young.

"You don't realize how competitive it is until you actually go to this competition and the conference in general," senior Noah Barnett said.

The team of six students included Louis Shakkour, Richard Sweeney, Hannah Tettenburn, Tania Blanco, Barnett and Lauren Doyle.

The conference provided Liberty's team with an opportunity to see how marketing teams from other universities promote products and work together, said Blanco who aided in secondary research for the team and helped design the model Web site for Kodak Gallery.

Brunson hopes to expand and diversify next year's team. Although the core of the team will remain marketing students, a few students from other majors including graphic design will be included. Juniors will be allowed to compete next year as well. Bringing juniors to the competition

provides experienced seniors for the following year, according to Brunson.

The case competition was one of many competitions in the 2009 annual AMA National Convention. Over 1,300 college students attended the conference.

"It was just great to see how all of these marketing students come together once a year with this passion that we have in common," Blanco said.

Participating in the AMA Collegiate Convention is also a great networking opportunity, according to Brunson. Many businesses set up booths and even took student resumes at the beginning of the conference. For some, that led to an interview. Blanco received a job interview with the J.M. Smucker Company.

For Barnett, the highlight of the event was the learning experience. The AMA case competition allows college students to make proposals to real-world clients.

Contact Caroline Harrison at
ctharrison@liberty.edu.

Soccer raises Cyprus funding

Natalie Lozano
NEWS EDITOR

In a strange role reversal, the Liberty men's soccer team cheered on its fans at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall last week in its successful effort to raise \$10,000 for the mission trip to Cyprus this summer. The team yelled all week for donations and challenged passers-by to pray.

"The Liberty students all gave above what we could have asked for, so that was awesome," junior Chris Mandell said.

The team was caught off guard recently when they learned they had to buy plane tickets by April 7.

"Realizing we only had 10 days left to raise support, our team as a whole decided to fast for about 24 hours," freshman Chris Phillips said. "(Raising) \$1,000 a day just seemed impossible, but we took our case before God and started to wait for a miracle."

According to NCAA rules, a team is limited to one overseas trip every four years,

and typically teams go to compete internationally. The team is still using their feet on the field, but will be doing so as a means of sharing the gospel. Northern Cyprus is primarily Muslim and closed to the gospel.

"We hope that by using soccer we will be able to gain their respect enough to build a relationship with them so that we can then share the gospel," Phillips said.

"Currently, there is only a handful of believers in Cyprus," sophomore Thad Taylor said. "We pray that God uses us to begin a movement in this country and that more believers will follow in our footsteps to Cyprus."

The entire team, except those injured or in summer school, will leave May 11 and return June 3, according to Taylor.

Although the \$10,000 goal was met, money still needs to be raised to cover the cost of food and other incidentals.

To donate, contact the Assistant Coach Dean Short at dedshort@liberty.edu.

Contact Natalie Lozano at
nalozano@liberty.edu.

Fashion show supports mission house



FASHION SHOW AWARDS

1ST PLACE — CAROLYN MARCELO
2ND PLACE — LESLEY VANNOY
3RD PLACE — HANNAH SWANSON
PEOPLE'S CHOICE — KATIE FATH

More than 1,000 people attended the 3rd annual FACS Fashion show held in the Schilling Center on Friday night. The cost of attendance was \$5, which will be used to support the missionary house in Liberty Village that FACS students recently renovated, according to junior Regina Eng.

Liberty law students finish strong

Amanda Thomason
NEWS REPORTER

After spending months working on legal briefs and preparing their oral arguments, third-year law student Carrie Mitchell and second-year law student Ben Walton presented their cases in the National Moot Court Tournament. The team advanced to the Octafinals where they lost to Texas Tech on a split ballot, according to the Director of the Center for Lawyering Skills, Scott Thompson.

"(Mitchell and Walton) finished the season as one of the top 16 Moot Court teams in the country, and in the top 10 percent of all teams that competed in the ABA tournament," Thompson said.

Mitchell and Walton received the title of regional champions at the competition on March 21 in Washington, D.C. out of the 187 teams from 110 law schools across the country. Only 24 teams from 22 law schools were represented at the national tournament.



Arguments were presented as a team, who took questions from a bench of three to five court room judges. Mitchell and Walton felt confident in the questioning because of their previous experience with nine judges at one time. Each competitor received 15 minutes to present their cases. During this time the judges are able to chime in with any question they have at any time they desire.

"As a coach, I could not be more proud of what this team accomplished. They argued as well as any team at the tournament and glorified God with both the use of their talents and their demeanor throughout. It was a pleasure to coach them and to represent Liberty at the National Championships," Thompson said.

The judges had a bench brief that included information about arguments that the competitors could or should have been making. Dialogue with the court during the presentation of the oral argument was conducted in a formal way to answer the judges' questions in an academic conversation setting.

"Ben and I have a lot of fun doing moot. We have really enjoyed working together, and Professor Thompson is a phenomenal coach that we are so blessed to be coached by — we could not ask for a better, more dedicated mentor for this process," Mitchell said. "Our ultimate goal in everything we do is to bring glory to the Lord, and being given this opportunity to go to nationals provided us with a more prominent stage to do so."

Contact Amanda Thomason at
ahthomason@liberty.edu.

Editor's Correction: The announced article profiling Patrick Andrews is not running in this week's edition. The article is anticipated to run in an upcoming issue.

LIBERTYCHAMPION

1971 UNIVERSITY BLVD. LYNCHBURG, VA 24506 (434) 582-2124

Faculty Advisor Deborah Huff
Ad Director Ben Lesley

Editor in Chief Amanda Baker

SECTION EDITORS

Copy Drew Menard
News Natalie Lozano
Opinion Tim Mattingly
Life! Amanda Sullivan
Sports Jake Petersen
Asst. Sports Thomas Lourdeau
Contributing Kerah Kemmerer

VISUAL CONTENT

Senior Editor Alex Towers
Graphic Designer Eric Tesenair
Graphic Designer Nicholas Dye

Distr. Manager Andrew Hicks

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:
Liberty Champion
Liberty University, Box 2000,
Lynchburg, VA 24502

or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

The Champion is available online at: www.liberty.edu/champion

Help Wanted

Response Mind

- Earn extra money
- Students needed ASAP
- Earn up to \$150 per day for being a mystery shopper
- No experience required
- Please call 1-800-722-4791

6800 Southwest 40th St.
Miami, FL 33155

Red Event

"WE STILL NEED TO STAND STRONG WITH A COLLECTIVE VOICE, AND DECLARE THAT THIS EVIL MUST BE STOPPED." — MATTHEW RAPOSAS



Danielle Talbert
LIFE! REPORTER

Imagine a world where all children have the ability to be kids, instead of having to fight for their freedom. Now, imagine the courtyard of DeMoss filled with more than

200 college students gathered together to support one great cause — to end the child sex trade.

The Helms School of Government and the Liberty School of Law banded together to host the Red Event, a concert with a cause, this past weekend. The free concert on April 3 featured The Fostered, Point of Honor, Humble T.I.P. and The Rory Tyer Band. The mix of light Christian rock, hard rock, Christian rap and acoustic folk music drew a broad spectrum of students for the same cause.

"It was for a great cause — a lot of time was spent getting the word out," sophomore Nick Pavlovic said. "I think the ultimate goal to educate was achieved. I definitely learned a lot this weekend."

"The Red Event did a fantastic job of breaking the grip of apathy that currently affects many Liberty students," senior Matthew Raposas said. "I believe that this

cause is an important one. In eliminating the evils of the child sex trade and human trafficking, we help preserve the innocence that these women and children should be entitled to, regardless of poverty and other issues."

Throughout the world, children as young as three years old are being sold for human trafficking. In fact, it is the second largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world, according to an article posted on the Polaris Project Web site at polarisproject.org. When many people think of human trafficking, they may think of poor third world countries. What many do not realize is that Thailand is the number one country involved in the trade, with America close behind in third place, according to Dave Peterson, president of the Criminal Justice Students Club (CJSC) here on campus.

The goal of the event was to get students informed and show them how

to get involved in stopping the vicious trade. Local and campus clubs, including Give Us Names, Freedom 4/24 and Smile4Africa, had booths set up at Friday's event. The sponsors believe that if secular organizations do a lot to combat the sex trade, then Christians should do more.

"This was all done by grace," Criminal Justice Club Treasurer Sarah Robbins said. "This big of event does not just happen. The bands (and organizations) worked great with us and we had a ton of students volunteer their time to help us out."

The events did not end with just the concerts. A symposium was held Saturday that featured organizations that currently fight sex trade, such as the SOLD Project, International Justice Mission (IJM), the Polaris Project and Operation Blue Ridge Thunder. A documentary video revealed the truths behind the child sex trade.

The CJSC, which is new this year, put on

the event as one of their outreaches to let students know that criminal justice does not stop with the courtroom. The club verse is Psalm 82:3-4, "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

"Just because the Red Event has concluded, our search for justice and restoration for those affected by this evil should not subside," Raposas said. "We still need to stand strong with a collective voice, and declare that this evil must be stopped."

For information on how to get involved, contact Dave Peterson at dgpeter@liberty.edu.

Contact Danielle Talbert at deta@liberty.edu.

Honors scholarship challenges dedicated students

Daniel Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

To many Liberty University students, the idea of a 25-page paper featuring citations from at least 20 authoritative sources is enough to make them run in the opposite direction. However, that assignment — an honors thesis — is the price some Liberty students have to pay in order to receive, among other benefits, upwards of \$15,000 in financial aid over the course of four academic years.

This semester, more than 480 students — among them individuals from 41 different states and four foreign countries — are paying that price and receiving that benefit as a part of the Liberty Honors Program.

According to Maria Childress, the honors program secretary, the honors program is "an academic and scholarship program designed to provide highly motivated students of above average ability the opportunity to achieve their highest intellectual and creative potential."

Other than approximately \$3,750 per year in scholarships, students in the honors program lay claim to early registration for classes and the chance to be specially mentored by professors within the department aligned with their major. Students in the curriculum can also apply for the National Merit Scholarship, finalists for which receive financial aid covering their tuition, room and board in full. Thirty-four Liberty students currently enjoy that perk.

The yearly financial aid is nearly one-fifth of a year's tuition and is considered the primary benefit of the honors program.

"At first, I applied to the Honors Program simply to get a scholarship and ease my financial burden," junior Justin Melvin said. "But, scholarship aside, being in the Honors Program enables me to be a better-rounded student academically."

"I knew that, in order to stay at Liberty, I needed to get more scholarships," senior Levi Baker said. "I applied for the honors



VERY HONORED — Honors Director James Nutter rests his arm on a stack of published senior honors theses.

program my freshman year and was accepted."

Students who need financial assistance and will not shy away from what junior Ben Taylor called a "relatively little amount of extra work," can start applying for the program their freshman year and continue to do so until the beginning of their sophomore year.

The Honors Program also has a special residence at Liberty, with office placement on the third floor of DeMoss, which boasts a lounge and complementary coffee bar for the use of students in the program.

Some extra work in classes is required of students in the program, but the most prominent assignment is undoubtedly the thesis, which is due by March 1 of the student's senior year. Students can choose a topic within their major, and receive help from overseeing faculty members as they work through it. Despite the seemingly heavy workload of the assignment, Baker has completed and turned in three of the four drafts of his thesis based on Romans 5-8.

"The hardest part is starting the research and

typing the first page. It is a lot less difficult than it sounds," Baker said.

Melvin added that the program, despite the label of honors, "does not imply added stress unnecessary to one's life."

"Do it," Taylor said as advice to students contemplating joining the honors program, citing the scholarship and professor interaction as benefits.

Students will gain a "more in-depth knowledge of their major" and an edge on the competition for entering graduate school and the job market, according to Childress.

Details on applying to the Honors Program can be found on the Web page that can be accessed through the academics link at liberty.edu.

Contact Daniel Martinez at dpmartinez@liberty.edu.

DOWNTOWN CONTINUED FROM A1

The first shooting on March 8 was the result of a physical confrontation at the Waterfalls Fine Dining restaurant, according to wsls.com. The male victim, 17, was treated for gunshot wounds to the face and chest at Lynchburg General Hospital. The two gunmen, Rodney Johnson Jr. and Atton Patterson, were arrested on March 26.

The next shooting, March 22, occurred on 218 Race St., according to wsls.com. Two unknown gunmen, possibly using automatic weapons, drove by 57-year-old Clarence Baldwin's home and opened fire, wounding him in the head. Baldwin was later released from the Lynchburg General Hospital. Both gunmen are still at large, and their motive is currently unknown.

Another shooting occurred later that day when several gunmen fired from their vehicles at a Madison Street home, wounding both Ronald William Slaughter and Keionca Nicole Miles, according to wsls.com. One of the shooters, Marcus Miller, was arrested on March 23.

The most recent shooting occurred March 25, near the Z-market on Park Avenue, according to wsls.com. John Hunter Alexander and Vincent Patrick Gilbert were arguing when Gilbert reportedly shot Alexander in the mouth. Alexander then drove himself to Lynchburg Police Department and was hospitalized. Gilbert later surrendered to police.

The violence continued on April 3 at the Miles Market on Rivermont Avenue, according to newsadvance.com. An altercation led Michael Anthony to stab LeRoy White with a knife,

SAFETY TIPS

For students venturing into the downtown area, Houck suggested safety tips to help avoid unwanted situations:

- Traveling in groups offers more protection, and the daytime is always safer than the nighttime.
- Avoid drawing unwanted attention by not carrying lots of money or jewelry.
- Most importantly, do not be confrontational. "If you have to walk off, that is fine," Houck said. "Trust your instincts. If (the situation) does not feel right, then it probably is not right."

inflicting minor injuries. LeRoy defended himself with a piece of broken glass, badly cutting Anthony's face. Both men were hospitalized and are recovering.

Despite a recent spike in violence in the downtown area, the Lynchburg police are doing everything they can to ensure the public's safety, according to wsls.com. Officers will focus on the areas recently struck with violence.

"Downtown Lynchburg has many fine restaurants and shops and I go there at times," Liberty University Police Chief Richard Hinkley said. "No matter where anyone goes they should take precautions to stay safe. Travel in groups, have a cell phone in case of an emergency, and go places (you) know."

Contact Matthew Coleman at mcoleman@liberty.edu.

Summer is coming. Are you ready?



Hours of Operation:
Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

(434) 528-0850

4541 Amherst Hwy
Madison Heights, VA 24572

20% off Wedding Invitations



Call All Wedding Essentials at 434.316.0055
or Visit www.AllWeddingEssentials.com

View full line catalogs and samples in store at
2319-A Lakeside Dr., Lynchburg

CRESCENTWOOD
town homes



- Less than 10 min from LU
- On City Bus Route, stop at entrance
- 2009 Lakeside Drive
- 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA with garage
- Only \$900 a month

**Call (434) 385-1391
for viewing**

www.dszechini.com
DSZ Properties, LC



Somehow it all fit
in the car when
you brought it
here, right?

Let us take care of all the extras this summer!

AAAA Self Storage

- *24 Hr. Access
- *Insurance Available
- *Fenced & Lighted
- *Variety of Sizes
- *10% Student Discount
- *Packaging Supplies Available

Avoid waiting, come in early
to complete lease & receive
a free gift!

(LEASE MUST BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 20th)

7316 Timberlake Road
Lynchburg, VA
(434) 239-6464

14616 Forest Road
Forest, VA
(434) 525-3298

AAAA
Self Storage Management Group

MISSIONS TRIP SPECIAL!

Save 25% on all purchases used for any missions outreach sponsored by LU. Get completely outfitted. Receive expert advice from our experienced Christian staff.

HIKER'S OUTPOST

OUTDOOR GEAR

Mon. - Fri.: 10AM-8PM
Sat.: 10AM-6PM

101 A Northwynd Circle
City Place in Wyndhurst
(Just up from the Jamerson YMCA)



Lynchburg's biggest
selection of The
North Face gear
and apparel.

www.hikersoutpost.com • 434-239-5576

A Trojan horse of a different color

Drew Menard
COPY EDITOR

The battle of Troy came to its gruesome finale after the Achaeans covertly hid themselves within a wooden horse in order to breach their enemy's impenetrable walls. Recently, the War on Terror has ended, or so we are led to believe, through a similar sort of trickery, nestled deep within the bowels of a cleverly disguised euphemism.

Last week, the Pentagon received a memo from the Department of Defense's office of security review, stating that "this administration prefers to avoid using the term 'Long War' or 'Global War on Terror,'" according to the Washington Post.

In lieu of such unpleasant terms, the memo said, "Please use 'Overseas Contingency Operation.'"

Boom. Bang. Voila. The War on Terror is now over. America's Trojan horse is now in place. However, in this case, the Department of Defense is not hiding in their giant wooden horse. They are hiding behind it.

One of the issues I strongly supported President Barack Obama on during his presidential campaign was his stance on the war.

"Immediately upon taking office, Obama will give his Secretary of Defense and military commanders a new mission in Iraq: successfully ending the war. The removal of our troops will be responsible and phased," Obama's campaign Web site stated.

Apparently, "successfully ending" a war entails re-naming it so that the American people will believe that the war is indeed over. This contemporary wooden horse is cleverly designed to disguise truth, in order to deceive those who live within the "mighty fortress" of America's borders so that they will feel safe and secure once again.

I am not saying that we should let the government manipulate us with fear (as I believe the Bush administration was guilty of), however, I do not believe that we should allow it to manipulate us with candy-coated phrases, either. Especially when the candy coating is filled with splinters.

How dumb does Washington think Americans are? Does someone up on Capitol Hill honestly think that the war will just disappear if we start calling it a "contingency"?

Contingency, as defined by dictionary.com, is, "dependence on chance... uncertainty... a chance accident or possibility... (or) something incidental to a thing."

Someone must have put the wooden horse together with scotch tape and card-



board, because America's success in the Middle East has now been reduced to uncertainty and chance.

Or, perhaps the Obama administration was referring to the last part of the definition. America is no longer fighting a War on Terror, but rather doing "something incidental to a thing." I hope no more "things" slip past airport security, or we could have a major global "incidental something" on our hands.

In all fairness to Obama's administration (yes, I am being facetious), Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said, in an interview with Spiegel Online, that the administration wants "to move away from the politics of fear toward a policy of being

prepared for all risks that can occur."

Kudos to them for trying, but there is a terrible flaw in the Obama administration's strategy: its aim. If Americans are the ones behind the giant walls of defense, then why is the Department of Defense directing its covert ops towards them? If they are trying to end a war on terror, the government should be focusing its time and energy on infiltrating the enemy, not riding into town in a wooden pony hoping everyone will forget about what is actually going on.

After \$864 billion (funds allocated to the War on Terror since Sept. 11, 2001), according to a recent Congressional Research Service report, the best solution the government could come up with to

end the war was give it a new name. It only took a few planks and some nails to forge the right words together, and now a giant wooden horse beckons to Americans.

"(Obama) seeks to turn the 'War on Terror' into a simple accounting problem," John Oliver said on the Daily Show. "And by calling the complete meltdown of America's economy the 'bank stabilization plan,' he's turned an accounting problem into a simple balance issue."

And the tactical war-ending linguistics do not stop there.

In a recent speech, Napolitano referred to "terrorism" as "man-caused disasters."

I feel safer already. The recent threats on Washington, D.C. have lost their sting now

that I read them in context — the worst thing a "man-caused disasterist" can do is "man-cause" a disaster. That doesn't sound so bad.

I do not know if using rotting planks is the best way to support an army inside a giant steed, especially when that decoy is being used to thwart the understanding of its own brethren. America's Trojan horse — excuse me, America's concealed stratagem — needs a new direction, one which does not seek to deceive the hardworking people who have been supporting the cause all along.

Contact Drew Menard at
ajmenard@liberty.edu.

CFAW: CRAZY for a Weekend

Emily DeFosse
OPINION REPORTER

I drove in to school Friday morning under the impression that it would be like any other day. As soon as I got within view of the campus, however, frustration began to swell within me as I realized it was College for a Weekend (CFAW). I waited as patiently as I could in slow moving traffic. Class started at 11:25.

It was 11:15.

11:20. I finally made it to the parking lot to find every spot filled with church busses, family minivans and the vehicles of fellow commuters who were smart enough to get to campus earlier than I was.

11:25. I circled the parking lot, for what seemed like hours (it was only five

minutes). Finally, I spotted a girl in the distance walking towards a car. Like a lion hunting its prey I pounced on the gas pedal and turned the wheel with great determination. I got behind the girl and followed behind her until she arrived at her car and pulled out of her spot. I pulled in before the SUV that just arrived at the scene could steal the spot.

I grabbed my backpack from the passenger seat and began a fast paced walk towards DeMoss. I walked past parents taking pictures of their children drinking from the collegiate water fountain, walking along the collegiate sidewalk and standing next to the collegiate tree.

I finally arrived at my creative writing class, eight minutes late. I walked in prepared to take my seat only to find the

small 20-seat classroom overtaken by CFAWers. There were students sitting on the floor and extra chairs had been brought in.

I took a deep breath and let out my frustration. CFAW is a nuisance. Traffic, no parking, no seats in class or convocation and living with high school students who just want to have fun and goof off at three in the morning when you are scrambling to finish a 10-page paper due in the morning.

CFAW is a headache and a pain, but without it thousands of students may have decided to go elsewhere to receive their education. I was a CFAWer once, though it seems like many years ago. I remember knocking on my host's door at 3 a.m. after a night of excitement while she had been up all night studying like a responsible

student.

Today, as students and parents waited in the long check-in line, I walked around to try and figure out what it is that draws so many people to CFAW.

Anushka Bester came from Northern Virginia to discover what life at Liberty is really like as she is enrolled for the fall semester.

Bester knows that Liberty has a unique Christian mission and came to discover first hand how that is lived out on campus.

Students are not the only people checking out Liberty this weekend. Parents and youth leaders have traveled with the students to make sure that Liberty is the kind of place they want to send the students they care about.

Celina Che, a mother from Florida

traveled to Liberty with her daughter to attend CFAW.

"So far so good," Che said. "The volunteers have been friendly and helpful."

CFAWers and their guests get a great first impression of Liberty when they arrive and hopefully that impression remains throughout the weekend.

It may be frustrating to share our campus with so many live-in guests for a weekend. It is more than just a recruiting tool, however. It is a chance for us as a student body to share the love of Christ with those who may join us one day. If nothing else, it is a great time to take advantage of the extra excitement a CFAW weekend brings.

Contact Emily DeFosse at
ebdefosse@liberty.edu.

FROM THE DESK

By Amanda Baker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Office is one of my favorite television shows. I am a huge fan of dry humor, and combined with awkward silences, practical jokes and office drama, the show creates considerable entertainment on a Thursday night. My enjoyment of the show overflows to tangible references, as two of my walls are adorned with The Office-themed memorabilia (come visit if you want to take a tour). The funny thing is, I can relate to a lot of the idiosyncrasies that are portrayed in the Scranton branch of Dunder-Mifflin Paper Company, because my home away from home is an office inside an office. The Champion office, that is.

Pranks are pulled all the time in DeMoss 1035. During the Christmas season, our senior design editor decided to put up a fake tree and adorn it with two million twinkly lights. It was pretty, until I opened my office door one day in late January to find the tree taking up most of the space inside. Needless

to say, it showed up in the prankster's office soon after. Jim Halpert would be proud.

The Champion office is filled with people from all areas of talent, wit and personality. The opinion editor is a self-proclaimed "compulsive storyteller," and does whatever he can to make life more interesting and off-the-wall. I mean, when I get a text that reads, "Bake-It, report to the Champion office and bring us food. Natalie is going into a berserker hunger rage," I can only wonder if the office will still be standing when I come in to mark up second edits. He also has a not-so-secret obsession with leprechauns, which is always cause for laughter whenever they pop up in one of his articles.

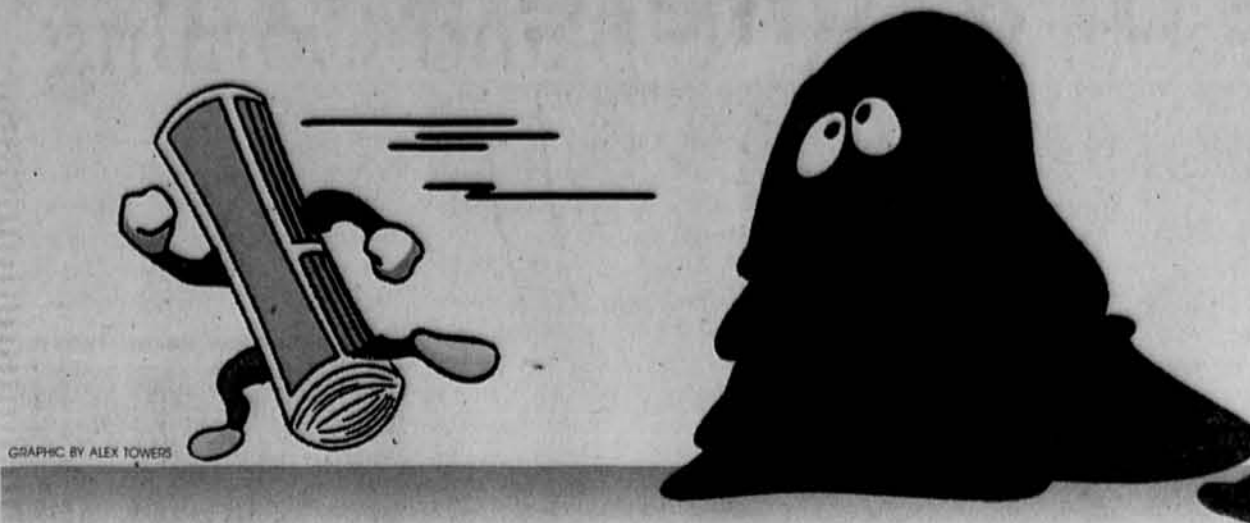
Mrs. Huff, the Champion adviser, is a wiser version of Michael Scott, the Scranton office manager made famous by Steve Carell. If a story is marked up with purple pen, it is understood that it crossed her desk at some point in time. At any time during a production

day, she can be heard saying, "What can I look at?" or "It's six o' clock! Why is this page blank?" Another common exclamation is, "Tiiiiiiiiim!" for all the reasons mentioned in the previous paragraph.

However, our office is almost like a family, too. On my birthday, the staff surprised me during a meeting with a huge cookie cake that read, "Happy birthday, Baker." This was an awesome surprise, and the sugar definitely livened up the meeting quite a bit. We are there for each other when one person gets a bad grade, scores an internship or is mourning the implosion of his March Madness bracket.

So, whenever you walk into the Champion office, be sure to glance at the "Office" placard that the news editor affixed to the front and center of the door. You might not leave the same as you were when you entered.

To read more From the Desk articles, visit
fromthedesk-baker.blogspot.com.



GRAPHIC BY ALEX TOWERS

NEWSPAPER CALYPSE Is this the end?

Mitchell Malcheff
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Tick, tick, tick. The clock is running out on newspapers as the click, click, click of computer mice grows ever louder. And if the trend toward Internet news continues, the click of moving mice is threatening to drown out the sound of rustling pages.

The death knell has already sounded for the Rocky Mountain News, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the Christian Science Monitor. The Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune are bankrupt, the Washington Post and New York Times are shedding jobs faster than Angelina Jolie can adopt babies and beat reporters are being replaced by bloggers.

The Web site Paper Cuts, (I shudder that I chose an Internet source for this story), which tracks the newspaper industry, states that 7,468 positions in the newspaper industry have been eliminated this year, and it's only April. At this rate, 30,000 newspaper jobs will disappear by the end of this year.

So how is the newspaper biz, once considered so essential to democracy, supposed to stave off extinction? Perhaps it can take a page from the Blob, that infamous movie from the 1950s that featured an amorphous creature from outer space that engulfed everything in its path.

To make a long and rather boring story short, the Blob was eventually stopped when the brave citizens of Downingtown, Pa., including a young and dashing Steve

McQueen (ask your parents), discovered that only extreme cold could "stop the horror!" Sprayed with a fire extinguisher, the Blob turned into an extremely cold and frozen Blob, capable only of icing down a delicious glass of lemonade on a hot Pennsylvania afternoon. The government

**"IF IT AIN'T
FREE, I AIN'T
PAYING FOR IT."**

dropped the Blobbish icicle in the Arctic and the audience was left with these chilling words — the end?

So if the Internet is the news business' personal Blob, there must be a way to kill it or at the very least freeze it until it comes back to life and terrorizes the world again, as the Blob did 14 years later in Los Angeles, hence the question mark at the end of Blob numero uno. (Hats off Hollywood for very clever and painfully obvious marketing.)

The obvious lesson, then, is that extreme cold will not kill the Internet. It is simply too powerful.

The answer in the short term is that newspapers must learn to survive in an alien environment. The Internet has created an on-demand world that even a daily paper just cannot keep up with. Updates assault

your browser, Blackberry and inbox by the minute.

Besides the update onslaught, the Internet has created an attitude of "if it ain't free, I ain't paying for it." The biggest mistake that papers made when they migrated online was that content was free from the get-go. The time has passed when perhaps a few cents could have been charged per article or a monthly or yearly fee could have been assessed for online access to any of the major newspapers. And even if papers did charge, there are enough free sites available that most would just move elsewhere to keep up with the Octomom and other stories of national importance (who's winning Dancing with the Stars, by the way?).

Newspapers will figure it out and eventually put an end to the Blob's "reign of terror." Or maybe they will be forced to hitch a ride on his slimy back. Either way, in a free society, there is and always has been a need for newspapers willing to keep a watchful on Washington and other power centers, keeping citizens informed of news that they need. Blogging has its advantages to be sure ... wait a second, if you change the g in blog to a b, "It spells Blob! It's back! Ahhhhhhhhhhh!"

Contact Mitchell Malcheff at
mjmicheff@liberty.edu.

From the ashes: Lessons learned from tragedy

Tracy Palmer
GUEST WRITER

Sunday, March 22, I slept in. It must have been about 12:30 p.m. when I woke up from the sound of girl yelling in my backyard. In my bedroom, I stumbled to the window next to my bed and peeked through the blind to find two girls yelling as if there was a fire. I opened my window and asked if my apartment was on fire. They said "yes" and ran away. I thought of my sister.

"Where is she and is anyone here besides me?"

I went to my door and did not see any smoke coming into my room, felt the doorknob to feel if it was hot, opened the door, called for my sister and looked around just outside my door to see smoke coming up the stairs and heard the sound of the fire alarm from down stairs. I started thinking fast. I'm pretty sure my heart was pounding. I could hear the sound of my apartment on fire. I closed the door and grabbed my phone. I called 911—I think I told the lady on the phone my house was on fire and I was still in it and that it is on Watergate drive. Then I hung up pushed my screen window out, and yelled for help. A man showed up out of nowhere and he said, "Stay there, stay there!" I ran to my

dirty clothes basket to grab the Nike hoodie that I love, then ran back to the window and started pulling myself up outside the window to try to get out.

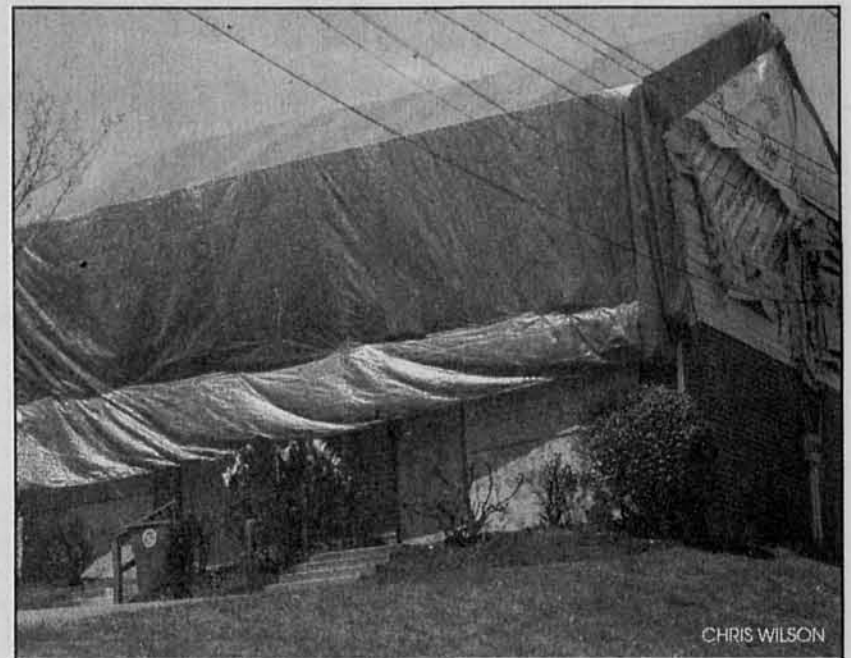
Within 30 seconds, the fire fighters came.

I yelled, "I'm up here!"

"Go get a ladder!" a firefighter yelled. It seemed like minutes, but then he came and I got on that ladder as fast as I could and got away from that house. Tons of people were asking me questions and giving me their number. The Red Cross gave my sister and I three free nights at the Days Inn. We slept there and moved to a new apartment on March 25 off of Sandusky and Timberlake Road.

My father's home insurance is going to cover our apartment's loss. I'm still thanking God for my life. I'm still trying to put my life back together. My sister lost everything—her room was ash. Her clothes, computer, school work, two TVs and many more possessions were destroyed. My clothes were all wet and damaged by the smoke. Liberty students donated some clothing for us and my father flew from Idaho to help us find a new place and get a few general things just to live.

I went back today and realized what happened to me was a reality check.



CHRIS WILSON

Domino's Pizza

Student Value Menu \$7.99

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| #1 One Large Pizza or 1-Topping Pizza code 9601 | #2 One Medium 2-Topping Pizza & a 20oz. Soda code 9602 | #3 One X-Large Cheese Pizza code 9603 | #4 Any 3 Three Bread Item: Cinna Stix, Cheesy Bread, Breadstick code 9604 |
|---|--|---|--|

Student Value Menu \$8.99

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| #5 One Medium 1-Topping Pizza & Order of Breadsticks code 9605 | #6 One Oven Baked Sandwich & a Small Cheese Pizza code 9606 | #7 Two Small 2-Topping Pizzas code 9607 |
|---|--|---|

**Sunday - Thursday 10:30am - 1am
Friday & Saturday 10:30am - 2am**

Domino's Pizza "Official Pizza of Liberty Flames Athletics"

Order online www.dominos.com
434-237-7788
5501 Fort Ave
NOW HIRING Part Time Delivery Drivers

ORDER ONLINE
DOMINOS.COM

LATE NIGHT
Domino's Pizza

Why drag all your stuff home this SUMMER?

- Climate or Non-Climate Controlled units
- Sizes available for any need even your CAR!!
- 1 mile from LIBERTY UNIVERSITY.....

IF WE DON'T BEAT THE RENTAL COST OF A LOCAL COMPETITOR WE WILL MATCH IT!

Give us a call at **434-528-0040** or visit us online at www.ideal-storage.com
3564 Young Place - Lynchburg, VA 245501

LU Dining's Waste Awareness Month

Food waste in the United States is the largest component of discarded waste by weight. (CNN online, 9/24/07)

On average, 1/3 pound of food is wasted per student per day in the Reber Thomas Dining Hall alone!

In an effort to reduce the amount of food wasted each day at Reber Thomas, Dining Services will be tracking food waste from April 6th - April 28th

Look for tracking results near the dish return and on the large LED screen in the middle of Reber!

Do your part and only take what you will eat!

50% OFF is a "CINCH"!
the simplest way to dine on campus!
Simply present this coupon to any Reber Thomas Dining Hall cashier to receive 50% off a resident dining meal purchase, and to activate your CINCH membership **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

Liberty's College Democrats are "Up-and-Coming"



Lee Sandy
NEWS REPORTER

At a convention on the campus of the University of Virginia last week, the Virginia Young Democrats (VAYD) awarded Liberty's College Democrats (LCD) with the "VAYD Up-and-Coming

Chapter of the Year" award. Governor Tim Kaine was in attendance when this award was presented, and Liberty University's College Democrats received a standing ovation.

LCD came onto the Liberty scene shortly before the 2008 presidential election, in an effort to broaden the political

landscape of the traditionally conservative university. Despite some adversity, this new chapter has continued to grow and gain acceptance among the student body.

LUCD Vice President Joel Krautter, believes that students are experiencing somewhat of a paradigm shift toward Democrats in general, and are "becoming more knowledgeable on both sides of the issues."

"The club not only simply exists in this conservative environment," Krautter said, "but it continues to grow and see noticeable favorable changes in people's attitudes toward democrats."

A "Faith Caucus" was formed at The VAYD Convention with LUCD President Brian Diaz elected as its chair. The Faith Caucus will focus on faith and religion in regards to the policies within the Democratic platform. Democratic chapters statewide will support and play a major role in the further development and influence this caucus will have in the future.

"What a better way for Liberty students

to get involved," Diaz said. "I'm looking forward to working with the VAYD not only to shape a better government, but to share the love of Christ."

While many members of the chapter uphold Christian values, such as pro-life stances, they also think that economic issues such as health care and the welfare of needy people must not be left on the back burner. Diaz hopes that LUCD's mission on the campus will inspire students to take action in Lynchburg and their own local communities in an effort to better reflect Christ in the world.

The College Republicans Public Relations Director Melinda Zosh sees this organization as a great opportunity for politically engaged students to gain experience in an open forum of discussion on the issues.

"You can't have College Republicans debating each other," Zosh said. "Now we can have an open forum where the College Republicans and the College Democrats can debate the issues."

Zosh thinks it is important to have

both a College Republicans and a College Democrats on any academic university.

"I think it's great for students to have opportunities to explore different viewpoints," Zosh said. "Having this kind of forum will help prepare students for the

"You can't have College Republicans debating each other. Now we can have an open forum where the College Republicans and the College Democrats can debate the issues."

College Republicans Public Relations Director Melinda Zosh

world they will go into after they graduate."

The LUCD will hold its next meeting April 21. For more information, visit the Liberty University College Democrats Facebook page.

Contact Lee Sandy at
rsandy@liberty.edu.

MIHELIC CONTINUED FROM A1

The first bill as SGA president that Mihelic wants to see passed is a petition for more lighting near the dorms. Mihelic's main campaign goal is to get the student body more involved in having a voice on pro-life issues. But Mihelic did not wait until he was elected president to make a difference. Mihelic recently proposed a bill to SGA that, if passed, would allow SGA to receive a budget that they could distribute to the campus student organizations. Mihelic said that he believes that student groups enhance the educational experience, so he wants to see SGA be able to help equip them with the means necessary to support their causes.

"I'd like to see SGA help out student groups. If this bill gets passed all of the way, then it will really help bring all the groups together and help them be able to do more for their different causes," Vice President of Students Behind our Soldiers Laura Blankenship said.

Senior Kyle Kronenberger said that he never really heard anything about SGA the entire time that he's been at Liberty. Kronenberger is graduating this May and said that he hopes SGA will be able to be more vocal and more active in its involvement with Liberty.

"I never even hear about SGA until the presidential elections," sophomore Amanda Lovell said.

Desmond, who was also a candidate for SGA president, addressed this issue.

"Many students I have talked to have no idea what SGA is, let alone what it does. This is a serious issue I wish to resolve," he said.

Desmond has been honing his leadership skills by serving as a senator for SGA. Desmond has also been a prayer leader and has led several mission trips throughout his high school and college years.

The other candidate for SGA president was Matthew McCain, who was running with Anthony Pamplin for vice president. McCain currently serves as vice president of Student Services for SGA and said he wants to attend law school and start a family after graduation.

The other two election winners, Zosh and Webb, both expressed excitement at the victory.

"When I saw the hard work of our supporters, and realized how much they were sacrificing for the campaign I knew I had a good shot at winning," Webb said. "That being said, I campaigned against a very strong candidate in Anthony Pamplin, and I knew it would be close."

Contact Mandi Forth at
afforth@liberty.edu.

NONE OF YOUR NUMBERS ARE *just* NUMBERS.

At U.S. Cellular, we believe every number's important. That's why we have My Contacts Backup for free. So you can save, store and even transfer your numbers if you get a new phone.

getusc.com

My Contacts Backup: wireless Pay-As-You-Go users who incur data access charges for My Contacts Backup while roaming should dial 811 for a toll credit. ©2009 U.S. Cellular

 **U.S. Cellular**
believe in something better™

Sigma Tau Delta
Invites you to join
them for an Evening of
Performance in Literature

This year's theme:
Adventures in Storytelling

The event will be held in
DeMoss 1113 on
Tuesday, April 7,
7:00 p.m.



CHAMPIONSPORTS

MCKAY HEADS FOR THE 'VILLE

Accepts job as UVA Assistant

|| BJ WILLIAMS, SPORTS REPORTER

Only days after star player Seth Curry decided to leave Liberty for Duke, head men's basketball coach Ritchie McKay shocked Flames fans by abruptly resigning from his position and joining new University of Virginia (UVA) head coach Tony Bennett in Charlottesville.

"I am leaving because my wife and I feel that we are supposed to start a new chapter in my professional career - one that does not involve me being a head coach at this time," McKay said. "Not many people voluntarily leave a head coaching position to become an assistant. It speaks to my relationship with Coach Bennett and the opportunity that I have in assisting him to build a great program."

McKay offered nothing but high praise for Liberty and the athletic administration as well in his statement.

Liberty Athletic Director Jeff Barber, along with many others, was surprised by McKay's decision to leave, but offered high praise to the man whom he hired just two years ago.

"While this decision was a surprise to us all, I have great respect for Ritchie McKay and wish his family the very best as they open another chapter in their lives," Barber said during an interview with LibertyFlames.com. "I believe I speak for the entire Liberty family when I offer my appreciation to Coach McKay for the solid foundation he brought to our program. I know that he loves Liberty University and always will."

This was latest incident in a series of unfortunate events surrounding the men's basketball program. First, freshman forward Brodin Floyd announced he will transfer for what was described as personal reasons. Just days after the

Flames were eliminated from the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament by James Madison, Curry announced that he was transferring from Liberty "based on my desire to develop as an athlete to the fullest of my potential and take advantage of new opportunities that may be available to me in a higher rated conference." Just a week later came McKay's resignation.

McKay is no stranger to the Bennett family, however. New UVA head coach Tony is the son of former Washington State (WSU) head coach Dick Bennett. Tony took over for his father after the 2005-2006 season.

His father, who went to WSU after compiling almost 500 wins at Wisconsin-Stevens Point, stepped down after compiling a 36-49 record in three seasons. According to McKay, Dick Bennett was "a mentor to me when I started out in coaching." Tony and McKay became good friends through the elder Bennett and when Tony will continue their friendship on the sidelines at Virginia.

Liberty assistant Brad Souce was named interim head coach and has expressed interest in becoming the permanent head coach of the Flames. However, Barber announced that a national search has begun, and recently fell to the Final Four to court potential coaches.

With signing day looming on the horizon (April 15) and a number

of players who made commitments anxiously awaiting the decision, the hiring will prove to be an important one for Barber and the program — mainly with the future recruits. Joel Vander Pol, a 6-foot-10 center from Fort Myers, Fla., is

already on board after signing a National Letter of Intent in November. Chris Perez, a 6-foot-4 shooting guard from Oldsmar, Fla., and 6-foot-8 small forward Ovie Soko from Hampton, Va., both gave verbal commitments to the Flames, but could

de-commit pending the decision.

Contact BJ Williams at bjwilliams@liberty.edu.
Additional reporting by Jake Petersen. Contact him at jpetersen@liberty.edu.



CHARLOTTEVILLE BOUND — Ritchie McKay announced this week that he plans to leave Liberty to take an assistant coaching position at the University of Virginia.

BASKETBALL RECAP



|| JORDAN LOSASSO, SPORTS REPORTER

It is not over until Seth Curry transfers.

That is the story of the men's basketball team as its season ended with the official announcement of Curry's release after the team was ousted from the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT).

Soon to follow was the declaration of McKay's departure for an associate head coaching job at the University of Virginia (UVA).

Despite this disastrous news that swept Liberty's campus and that left the basketball program in disarray, the Flames season had its moments to remember.

An invitation to the CIT marked the first time in program history that the team was invited to a postseason tournament. They advanced to the semi-finals before being knocked out of the tournament by James Madison University, 88-65.



The aspirations of postseason play were ignited with a hot start to the season for the Flames. The Flames caught fire in their first nine games, compiling a record of 7-2, surging during an impressive stretch of wins. The Flames defeated UVA, William & Mary and George Mason and came within three minutes of defeating the nationally ranked Clemson Tigers.

After the 7-2 start, though, the Flames were 16-10 and suffered their two worst defeats of the season. In the Bracket Buster game on ESPN2, Liberty lost 80-56 to Old Dominion and followed with a disastrous 109-72 home loss to conference foe VMI.

Liberty then advanced to the Big South Conference Tournament as



No. 3 seed and lost to No. 2 VMI in the semi-finals. McKay claimed, before his resignation to accept the job at UVA, this season has stood out compared to his other 12 seasons as a head coach.

"I'm not saying this to just say it, but this has been one of the most enjoyable seasons in my coaching career," McKay said.

Several Flames were selected for postseason awards. Curry, who led the nation's freshmen in scoring, was selected for the second team all-conference team and named Big South Freshman of the Year. Senior Anthony Smith earned first team all-conference honors, and freshman Jesse Sanders was named to the all-freshman team.

see BASKETBALL on B3

TRACK

Number of Flames finish high at Liberty Collegiate Invitational



DANIEL HEFFNER, SPORTS REPORTER

A wealth of talent from up and down the eastern seaboard, including Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland, trekked to Liberty's campus as the Flames hosted the Liberty Collegiate Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

The Lady Flames performed at a high level throughout the day, headlined by senior Andrea Beckles three first place finishes.

Beckles won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.74, the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.19, and ran the first leg of the winning 4x100 meter relay, which posted a time of 46.76. Beckles' 100-meter time, which qualified her for the NCAA Division I East Regional Championships, was also a personal best.

Other first place finishers for the Lady Flames were senior Ashley Teer, posting a time of 2:18.71 in the 800-meter run; sophomore Kati Albright in the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:51.37; freshman Olivia Charnuski in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.57; and senior Kristen Dalton in the javelin throw with a distance of 118-11. As mentioned above, the winning 4x100 meter relay team, led by Beckles, also included junior Chenoa Freeman, freshman Alyssa Pegues, and Charnuski running the anchor leg.

Other notable performances by the Lady Flames

were Pegues, finishing second to Beckles in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.97, and Freeman finishing fifth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.02. Freeman also placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.44. Sophomore Rod'Esther Castor, participating in the 800-meter run, finished second to teammate Teer with a time of 2:20.62 and junior Ashley Osborne finished second to Albright in the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:52.03.

The 5000-meter run ended well for sophomore Dacia Bushman, who finished second posting a time of 18:17.32, and in the 3000-meter steeplechase Denise Troyer and Charis Haldeman, both freshmen, finished second and third, respectively with times of 12:24.70 and 12:33.11, respectively.

Also placing well in the field events were freshman Laura Haugland with a height of 1.57 meters in the High Jump, freshman Rachel Houseknecht in the pole vault with a height of 3.35 meters, and freshman Brianna Knauff in the hammer throw with a distance of 38.69 meters. In the Heptathlon, sophomore Krystle Matthews finished third with a score of 4270, and sophomore Jen Healey was fourth with 4211 points.

"Since the meet will not be scored, it's just about trying to compete well and get good performances

as we approach the scored meets later in the season," Head Coach Brant Tolsma said.

The men performed just as well as the women, most notably senior Matt Parker.

Parker finished second in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.50, fourth in the long jump with a distance of 7.01 meters and first in the high jump with a height of 2.12 meters. His strong showing qualified him for the NCAA Division I East Regional Championships in that event.

A pair of freshmen, John Talbert and Ryan Bell, both placed first in the hammer throw and javelin throw with distances of 53.74 meters and 58.75 meters, respectively.

Another Flames standout was freshman Anthony Bryant, who finished second to Parker in the high jump with a height of 2.02 meters and also second in the triple jump with a distance of 15.09 meters.

In the 100 and 200-meter dash, sophomore Jacey Bailey placed third in both events with times of 10.75, and 21.71. Senior Phil Leineweber also placed fourth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.73 and first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.08. In the 800-meter run, freshman Isaac Wendland was spectacular in finishing first with a time of 1:54.77,

and in the 1500-meter run senior Jarvis Jelen finished second with a time of 3:54.94 with freshman Will Reeves posting a time of 4:08.57, which was good for fourth place.

The men, however, were not finished with solid performances.

In the 3000-meter steeplechase, freshman Kyle Powers finished with a first-place time of 9:40.79.

The 4x400 meter relay team consisting of senior Tim O'Donnell, Wendland, freshman James Hatch and freshman Jordan Bright finished second to Campbell University in a close race with a time of 3:18.78.

In the decathlon, sophomore Geren Woodbridge finished third with a score of 6811, and senior Clarence Murray finished fifth with a score of 6316.

The teams will split up this week, with some traveling to Knoxville, Tenn. for the Sea Ray Relays beginning on Thursday and ending on Friday. The other half of the team will stay in Lynchburg for the Lynchburg Track and Field Classic held at Lynchburg College on Saturday.

Contact Daniel Heffner at
dheffner@liberty.edu.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Smith sidelined; Ellis, offense pick up the slack

JONATHAN THOMPSON, SPORTS REPORTER

It was a weekend of ups and downs for the Liberty Lady Flames' Softball team. The bright side, they claimed a three-game sweep over conference leader Charleston Southern. The bad news, Sophomore pitcher Tiffany Smith was removed after five innings in game one due to an unknown injury.

Smith was stellar in her pitching duel with Sondra Vetter. Smith gave up only four hits, collected five strikeouts and only allowed one run, a solo shot to shortstop Megan Lombard in the sixth.

"She gave us five great innings," Coach Paul Wetmore said, "but after that she just couldn't get her breath."

Wetmore and the team hope that Smith will be back up to full strength after the 7-10 day rest prescribed by doctors.

Senior pitcher Sarah Ellis was brought in to relieve Smith, and collected the win retiring the last five Lady Bucs. Sophomore catcher Keely McMillon was the hero on the offensive side for Liberty as she provided a two-run triple in the bottom of the sixth, driving in sophomore center fielder Amber DePasquale and senior first baseman Beth Bennett.

"It felt awesome to finally connect with a ball," McMillon said. "I just

wanted to keep running, it felt great."

Those two runs provided the win for the Lady Flames, setting the stage for the entire weekend. Come from behind wins, but more importantly, production from the entire lineup were on the menu for Charleston Southern.

With Smith out, Ellis was called upon to pitch the final two games of the crucial series. She proved more than up to the task, allowing only two runs in each game and picking up two more wins, moving her record to 8-14 on the season.

"I'm just glad that the team came out and got three wins," Ellis said. "Whether I get them or not doesn't really matter to me. It was so clutch after getting swept by Winthrop last weekend, and hopefully it will keep going."

Liberty was not lacking in offense during the final two contests, as they would rack up 10 hits in game two, and 11 hits in game three. Freshman shortstop Kelly Strickland, sophomore designated player Ashley Bensinger and Bennett all collected home runs in the series.

Bennett led the Lady Flames over the weekend, going 5-for-8 with three RBI's and two runs scored. Strickland was 4-8 with two runs scored and one RBI. McMillon, Bensinger and freshman right fielder Kaylee West all recorded multi-hit games as well. Eight of the nine starters for Liberty had at least two hits over the series.

"We did well. We hit the ball hard," Bennett said. "It feels good that our girls are not going to give up. Something happened up at UVa, and we just came out of our shell, and now we are just running with it."

"The key is, we got production from our seven, eight and nine hitters," Wetmore said. "One through six have been doing well, and our bottom three really stepped up this series. That was the key."



Liberty lost two games earlier in the week to UVa, both come from behind wins for the Cavaliers. Liberty collected 18 hits over the two games and only lost by one run each game.

But even after a sweep of the conference leaders, Liberty is not out of the woods yet. There is still a question of whether or not Smith will be able to pitch.

"We hope that she will be able to go for the Gardner Webb series," Wetmore said. "If she can't, we have no idea what we are going to do. We can't pitch Sarah (Ellis) every day, especially during conference play."

Liberty does have two freshmen who could spell Ellis, or split Smith's shift if she is unable to pitch for an extended amount of time.

"We really have no idea," Wetmore said. "(Smith) is a great kid, and right now we are just trusting in God to work everything out."

Contact Jonathan Thompson at
jnthompson@liberty.edu.



College Night

FREE 10 piece McNuggets or Quarter Pounder with cheese

When you purchase a
Medium Fry and Medium Drink
**At your Wards Crossing
McDonalds only**
College ID Required
Tuesdays from 5-8 PM

i'm lovin' it



**BROWNSTONE
PROPERTIES, INC.**

We Proudly Offer:

- Single Family Homes
- Townhomes/Apartments
- Short Term Rentals
- Optional Washer/Dryer
- Call for current Specials

Visit us online at
www.brownstoneproperties.com
For a complete listing
of available properties.

385-1025

3720 Old Forest Road, Lynchburg, Va 24502
info@brownstoneproperties.com



Mayflower Storage

2707 Mayflower Drive • 24 hour access

STUDENT SPECIAL

• 10'x10' Unit
• Four Months **\$200.00**

- Come by Office at 2711 Mayflower Drive
- 2 miles from campus
- Call: (434) 528-4733
(434) 660-5515
(weekends)
- All Major Credit Cards Accepted

BASKETBALL

Continued from B1

In women's basketball, chemistry was key.

"Our strength was our chemistry. We relied on each other on and off the court," senior Megan Frazee said. "You can have all the athletes and talent in the world, but if they don't get along, they're not communicating and not playing well with each other, then they're not going to be successful."

The Lady Flames needed that chemistry to escape a 3-7 start to the season, which was plagued with injuries, to finish 24-9. That adversity allowed the team to be successful for the remainder of the year and enabled Liberty to grow together as a team according to Coach Carey Green, who has been the staple of the Lady Flames for the past 10 years.

After the 3-7 start, Liberty began to get healthy and Frazee returned to the lineup from an ankle ailment that sidelined her for eight games. Her arrival sparked a 23-2 run that led to a Big South Championship and a trip to Baton Rouge for the NCAA Tournament.

The NCAA Selection Committee gave Liberty a No. 14 seed, and slotted them against No. 3 Louisville. Both teams felt disrespected with the seeding.

"What I'm disappointed and disgruntled with was that I didn't think Louisville or Liberty was given a true evaluation in seeding. I thought we were better, and I thought they were better," Green said.

Liberty lost to Louisville 62-42 and was haunted with 27 turnovers. The Lady Flames averaged more than 20 per game.

"We weren't able to control our emotions and make good decisions which consequently took away from good offensive execution," Green said.

Along with chemistry, Liberty relied on rebounding and defense for success. The Lady Flames finished second in the nation in rebounding.

"Our strengths were communication and chemistry, and the ability to rebound and defend," Green said.

Major awards for the Lady Flames include Big South Player of the year for Megan Frazee, and Coach of the Year for Green.

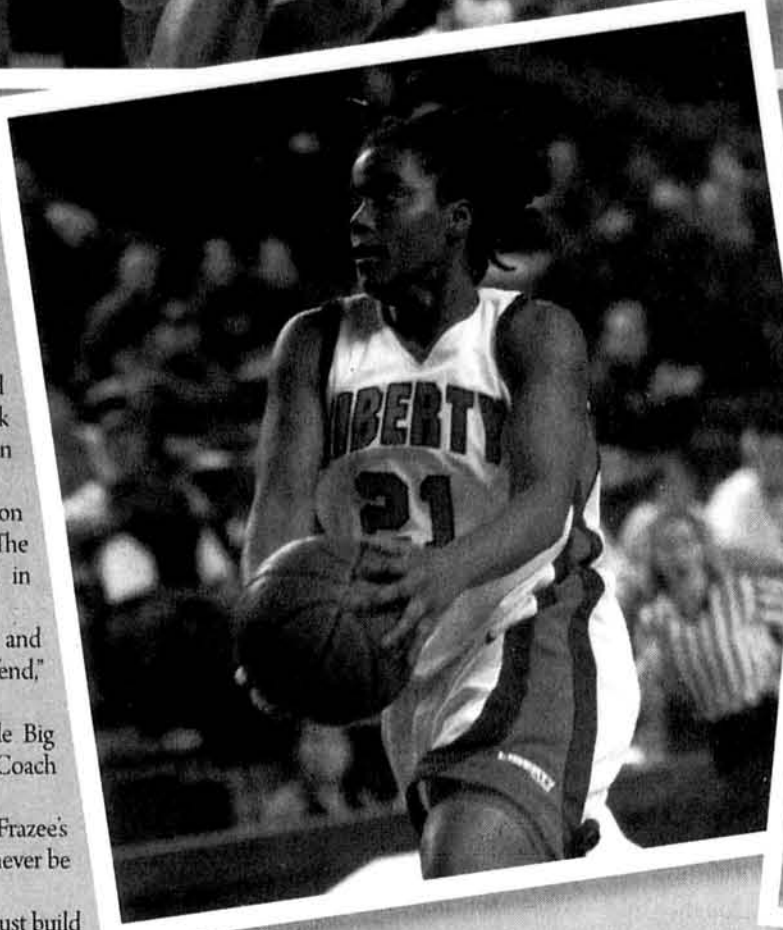
After graduating seven seniors, including the Frazee's and Rachel Hammond, the Lady Flames will never be the same.

"You can never replace the individuals. You just build a different team," Green said.

Contact Jordan LoSasso at
jlosasso@liberty.edu.



PHOTOS BY ALEX TOWERS



14th Annual Achievement Awards

APRIL 17, 2009
6:30PM HOLIDAY INN SELECT
DOWNTOWN LYNCHBURG

TICKETS: \$30 PER PERSON OR 2/\$50 PURCHASE TIX IN CENTER4ME OFFICE (DORM 20)



Don't miss the awards show of the year!

Get your tickets early. Seating is limited and sales end on Friday, April 10th

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY

Center for Multicultural
Enrichment

"...promoting unity and celebrating cultural diversity."



LES SCHICKEL

FLAMES TAKE TWO OF THREE FROM VMI

|| AXEL CERNY, SPORTS REPORTER ||

In a season that will most likely tally up near 60 games, streaks become essential in college baseball. Teams battle into the heat of summer, after their classmates have graduated or retreated home for a three month hiatus, to ride out win streaks as long as possible and cut short the losing skids that are certain to come.

Fortunately for the Liberty Flames this year, their experiences with streaks have been much more on the winning side than the losing. After rattling off nine straight victories entering last Monday's contest, though, the Flames cooled off to lose three straight to open up this week. However, like a successful baseball team should, they bounced back quickly, winning their weekend series against Big South Conference foe Virginia Military Institute (VMI) this past weekend.

The Flames ball club suffered a loss on Tuesday, as they took their game to Norfolk, Va. to battle the 8-15 Monarchs of Old Dominion. Junior center fielder Curran Redal put the Flames in front 1-0 with an RBI single in the top of the third, but Old Dominion stole back the advantage for good in the bottom of the fourth on a single from Monarch third baseman Jake McAloose and a home run only two batters later off the bat of first baseman Joe Velleggia. Senior starter Cody Brown suffered the loss for Liberty despite pitching five strong innings, dropping his personal record to 1-1 on the season, while Monarch starter Chris Boggs picked up the win to move to 2-0.

Liberty was in Farmville, Va. on Thursday for a visit with the Longwood Lancers. Once again, the Flames jumped to a 3-1 lead early, courtesy of a fielder's choice, a wild pitch and an RBI single by freshman first baseman Trey Wimmer, but their lead would not hold. The Lancers scored four runs on four hits in the fourth, including a three-run double off the bat of shortstop Scott Kimble. Longwood would add a run in the fifth and seventh inning to finish with a 7-3 win over Liberty. Flames' senior Tyler Light suffered the loss to fall to 1-2 on the year, while Mike Montgomery grabbed the win in relief to move the Lancers 16-9.

Friday night, the Flames opened up a three-game weekend series at Gray/Minor stadium in Lexington against Big South rival VMI. VMI entered the series 5-3 in the conference and 11-15 overall.

The first contest of the three-game set on Friday night was all Keydets, but early on, Liberty once again jumped out to an early lead 1-0 lead in the first as shortstop Matt Williams led off the game with a triple and was plated moments later by a single off the bat of Redal.

VMI countered in the bottom half of the first with two runs of their own and by the fourth inning held an 11-1 advantage mostly thanks to four RBIs on a triple and home run off the bat of Alex Haitsuka. The Flames would slowly chip away at the lead throughout the remaining innings, but the VMI offense was too much in game one as the Keydets finished the game

with a 13-6 advantage.

Stevan Evans took the loss for Liberty, moving to 4-1, while VMI hurler Travis Smink got the win running his record to 4-2.

The good news for this week is that the three-game losing skid stopped there. In game two of the Flames' series in Lexington, Liberty sent all nine of their players to the plate in the second inning which resulted in a 4-0 lead thanks to a pair of two-run doubles off the bats of Williams and senior catcher Errol Hollinger.

Liberty added one more run two innings later, but the VMI bats finally came alive in the fourth inning as well, as they pushed across four runs, three of which came off the bat of Haitsuka, who was a force all series long against Liberty. The Flames would not give up the lead in this contest though, as Curran Redal ripped two clutch singles in the sixth and eighth innings to bring home four runs total and give Liberty the nine runs that they needed to pull out the win.

A home run in the bottom of the ninth from first baseman Jordan Ballard cut VMI's deficit to 9-7, but Flames' reliever Andrew Wilson shut things down for his first save of the season. Junior starter Shawn Teufel tossed for six frames, picking up the win to move to 4-1 on the season, while VMI right-hander Chris Henderson, fell to 2-3.

The Flames clinched the weekend series against VMI on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon that seemed made for baseball.

VMI scored the first run of the game in the second inning, after Ballard doubled and came around to score on a fielder's choice and a double play. In the fourth inning, Liberty freshman third baseman Tyler Bream belted a solo-shot to left to tie things back up.

Liberty would tally two more runs in the seventh on two hits as Redal and Doug Bream came around to score on a fielder's choice and a wild pitch, and put one more run across on an error in the eighth to make it 4-1.

The error would prove costly as VMI would fall just short, scoring two runs in eighth before Carter Browning came in to grab his third save of the season in the ninth. Andrew Wilson picked up the win for the flames, moving to 4-1, while Matt Edwards suffered the loss for the Keydets, falling to 2-2.

Finding themselves back on the winning road, the Liberty Flames now stand at 21-8 on the season and 9-2 in the Big South Conference, good for first place. Liberty will close out their road trip this week with games on Tuesday and Wednesday at William & Mary and George Mason, respectively. The Flames then return home to host a series against UNC-Asheville this coming weekend.

Contact Axel Cerny at
axelcerny@gmail.com.

New season brings new hope for baseball fans

|| THOMAS LOURDEAU, ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR ||

A few days ago, the calendar officially turned from the dog days of March to April, which, for sports fans around the country, means yet another year of hope, unrealistic optimism and lofty expectations.

Baseball fans are unlike that of any other major American sport, as they pay no mind to the objections and disputes of the average viewer. While acknowledging, that baseball is a six-month marathon with 162 games of gut-busting tension, any fan who has followed the sport for a number of years knows that one error, one hanging curveball or one whiff of the bat can mean the difference between success and failure.

With this in mind, there is reason to believe that the 2009 Major League Baseball season will be one to remember.

In previous years, the list of legitimate contenders in the Majors could be whittled down to four. However, as we look forward to 2009, there are as many as 10 teams (approximately one third of the league) with viable hope for playing in the Fall Classic.

The New York Yankees were this off-season's biggest spenders, pouring a surplus of \$440 million into what they hope will turn into a pair of star pitchers (CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett) and a first baseman (Mark Texiera) capable of launching the ball into the seats of any ballpark. However, missing the playoffs for the first time this decade has put first-year manager Joe Girardi and his team under fire, and the steroid scandal and subsequent injury of Alex Rodriguez has

suddenly brought this offensive juggernaut into question. Will the Yankees be able to climb the mountain to the American League (AL) East crown in what is sure to be a difficult division?

The Boston Red Sox continue to look like the cream of the crop in the AL on paper, but an aging offense might derail their hopes of building a Boston dynasty. David Ortiz is an aging slugger, and Mike Lowell's production remains a wild card. How much production these two manage in the season may have a direct impact on Red Sox Nation's hopes of another championship.

Let's not forget the American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays, who have a payroll that is approximately equal to the team's portion of baseball's revenue sharing plan (\$30 million). The Rays figure to be even better as their young rotation gained invaluable experience through last season's playoff run. Carl Crawford also turned in

his worst season since his rookie year, and star third baseman Evan Longoria missed nearly 60 games due to injury. Despite the big wallets of the other teams in the division, it's hard to look at the Rays as anything but the favorite.

The National League (NL) East is just as deep with the reigning World Series Champion Phillies primed to repeat. Chase Utley turned in a monster 2008, while 2007 MVP Jimmy Rollins will look to avoid injury to return to form in 2009. The Phillies boast a young rotation with high upside, but Cole Hamels, the most important piece, has had injury troubles this spring that has thus far hindered his plan to begin 2009 in top form. Regardless, the Phillies have the experience and talent to expect an October bid.

However, a bolstered bullpen by NL East division foe New York Mets should make the race for the crown even tighter than in seasons past. The Mets appear wiser for having gone through two consecutive late-season collapses, adding J.J. Putz and Francisco Rodriguez as

anchors in the bullpen. Couple that with a host of elite offensive players in the prime of their career and there is potential for a fun season in New York.

While the Chicago Cubs look like the class of the NL Central for the third year in a row, the St. Louis Cardinals appear dangerous thanks to the resurgence of Chris Carpenter, who is looking to get back the swagger that won him the 2005 Cy Young award after several injury-riddled seasons.

The Cubs have more than a 101-year curse to contend with. Their quest for a championship begins in their own division, as the Milwaukee Brewers will hope to use a host of young sluggers to capture a second consecutive postseason berth. To do it, though, they'll have to navigate through the tough NL lineups without the aforementioned Sabathia, who all but willed the team to the playoffs a year ago.

The Los Angeles Dodgers might be on the other side of the country from the rest of these teams, but they are right in the heart of the discussion. Manny Ramirez, who engineered his departure from Boston and into the hearts of Dodger fans, has been on a tear that has carried over into spring training. How he goes, so the Dodgers go as they find themselves once again in the World Series discussion.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not include the highly contested AL Central, who could possibly boast the deepest assortment of teams in any division. The Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, Minnesota Twins and Detroit Tigers can all make a case for playing in October, and the Kansas City Royals have begun what could be a climb to the top of the division. While no team in the division may turn in a regular season record totaling 90 wins, it is safe to say that every team will be in contention late into the season.

These division races bring a parity not found in any other sport, giving fans of any club reason for optimism as the heartbreak of a season lost transforms into the eternal hope of what is to come.

Contact Thomas Lourdeau at
tlourdeau@liberty.edu.

"Saving Lives, One Donation at A Time"

Donating plasma is safe and healthy. An International BioResources Plasma Center offers you the opportunity to earn money while you help save lives.

- \$25/\$30 New Donors
- \$20/\$30 Return Donors

International BioResources

237-6861

6015 Fort Avenue, Ste. 23 • Lynchburg, VA 24502

Earn Your Degree In Funology!



ACE Adventure Resort

Get credits in fun with these awesome April/May deals:

The Surgical Strike

- FRI: Half-Day Rafting on the Lower New (trip #119)
- FRI PM: Camping, Dinner Buffet and 50¢ Drafts
- SAT AM: Hot Country Breakfast
- OR: Camp/Dinner/Drafts SAT PM, Breakfast/Raft SUN AM

Only \$69 per person

The Whole Enchilada

- All-Day Whitewater Rafting on the Lower New (trip #4)
- Hot Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Day of Trip
- 2 Nights Complimentary Camping

Only \$89 per person

Ask about a lodging upgrade when you call to reserve!

www.AceRaft.com/college.html
1-800-787-3982



Rise Up Climbing

Timothy Mattingly
OPINION EDITOR

Chalk-stained fingers wearily cling to a wall, vertically sprawling above its would-be climber. Various handgrips litter the upward landscape, acting as both aid and challenger. The victorious "top out," while the defeated quite literally fall short of their goals.

Thus, rope is a man's (and a woman's) best friend at Rise Up Climbing, 1225 Church Street, in downtown Lynchburg. Once these "life-lines" remove certain paralysis and death from the equation, a climber's second best friend at Rise Up is Dan Hague, who made this unique climbing experience possible.

"My hope is to provide a fitness and recreation alternative by creating a vibrant climbing community in Lynchburg," Hague said.

As well as being the Chairman of the Climbing Wall Association's Operational Standards Committee, Hague has over 35 years of rock climbing and 13 years of instructional experience. In 1993, he established Sportrock Climbing Centers in Washington, D.C. and in 11 years transformed it into the "east-coasts largest climbing company," according to the Climbing Wall Management Web site.

Hague left Sportrock Climbing and moved to Lynchburg in 2004. "As Mother Teresa advised someone once, I grew where I was planted," Hague said.

And Rise Up has grown as well. It took a year for Hague to find the location in Lynchburg to plant his new climbing gym, he said. Once located, construction continued for a year and a half, until Rise Up finally opened its doors on Sept. 27, 2008.

Already it has surpassing its growth goals despite the nation being in a recession, according to Hague. A portion of that growth comes in the form of Liberty students, such as freshman Taryn Epperson and junior Moses Champoonote.

"Rise up is a very social place where climbers meet not only to practice their sport but also to share the experience with other," Hague said.

At the gym, Epperson, a climber of seven years, met and became friends with Champoonote who just started climbing five months ago, when he joined Rise Up. Now they both attend the gym an average of five days a week, going for hours at a time, while taking on some of Rise Up's more difficult climbing challenges.

One such challenge comes in the form of bouldering, which involves short distance but high intensity, harness-free climbing. The physically challenging boulder routes are called "problems," which, for Epperson, provide more than just a good workout. For her, problems are a way of dealing with life's problems.

"I just find it awesome, how I can work on things in my life through bouldering problems," Epperson said.

And while Champoonote says he generally goes to the gym for the "intense challenge" and social environment, he also utilizes the various styles of climbing offered at Rise Up to help himself relax.

"Rock climbing is my way out," he said. "A way to free myself from all the commotion and drama of life."

Other forms of climbing at the gym include top rope climbing, where previously placed ropes dangle from above for individuals to tie into. After securing a figure-eight knot, climbers can ascend the wall with the assistance of a belayer — the individual who controls the slack and tension on the rope.

For more advanced climbers, lead climbing is an option. This style puts an individual's rope in his own hands when he scales the wall, clipping into anchors as he goes, as someone else belays from below.

"Leading allows you to attempt the steepest of climbs which cannot be top roped and is the truest type of ascent," states the Rise Up Web site, riseupclimbing.com.

Being able to practice this "truest form" requires training class, which are provided at the gym. While leading is one of the more advanced classes offered at Rise Up, there are also educational offerings for beginners and even kids. Climbing without proper training is dangerous, as Hague explains.

"Rise up is a training and practice facility for climbers and not an amusement," he said. "We do, however, offer a number of programs designed to help non-climbers acquire the skills necessary to use our facility."

Through such training classes, new climbers are encouraged to come in Rise Up, get on the wall and attain their climbing goals. But the ultimate goal does not rest in an indoor gym, Epperson explains — the ultimate goal is outdoor climbing on real rocks. With the lead climbing class at

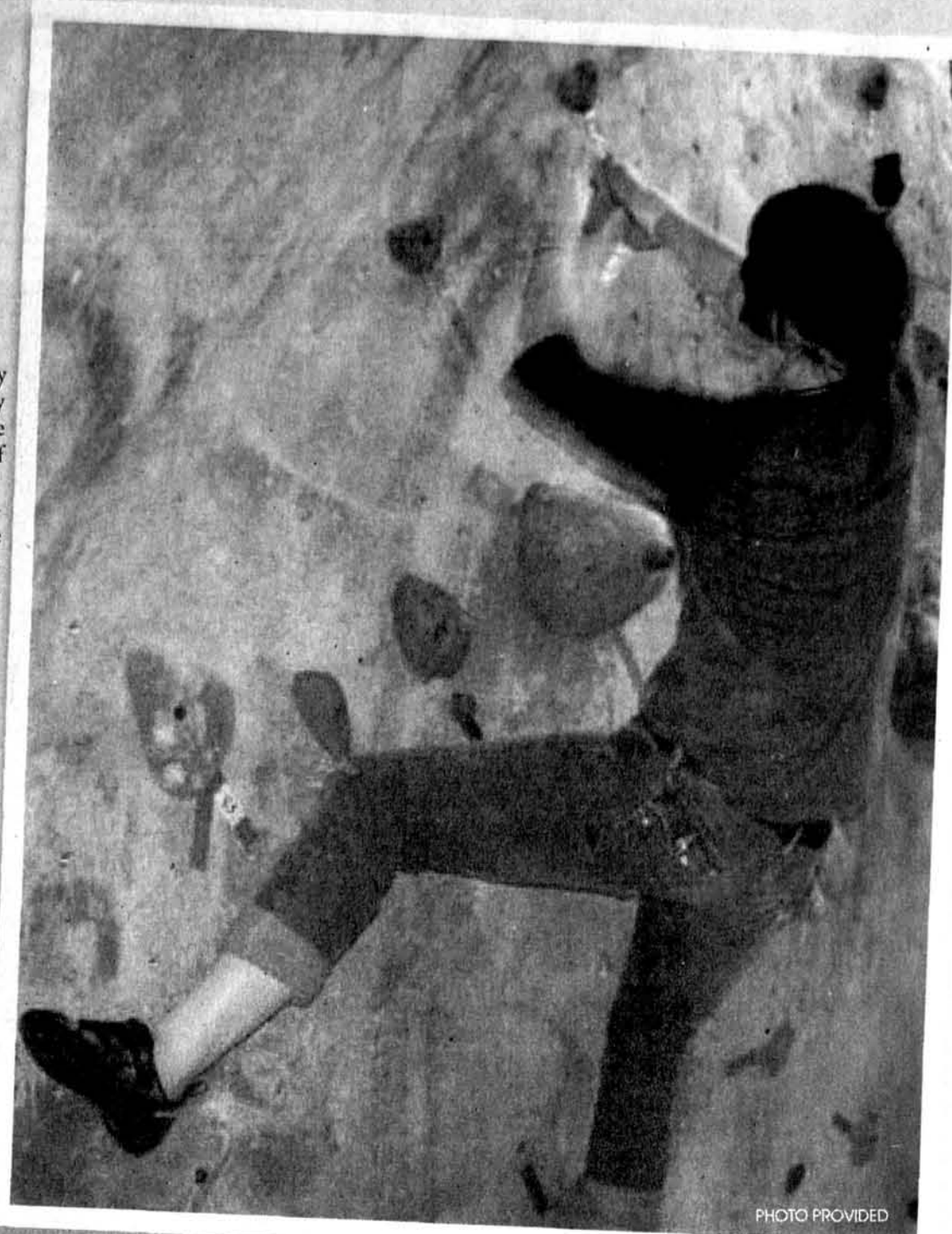


PHOTO PROVIDED

Rise Up under their belts, both Epperson and Champoonote went on a weekend camping trip, putting their skills to the test on the rocks at the New River Gorge Mountain in Summersville, W. Va.

"Rock climbing is a physical and mental challenge that builds strength and endurance, mental agility and toughness, and engenders trust and camaraderie among the participants," Hague said. "Above all, climbing is fun, and why not enjoy your physical activity?"

Contact Tim Mattingly at tmatingly@liberty.edu.

Hair metal and Ecclesiastes

campus church music session explained

Emily DeFosse
LIFE! REPORTER

"That doesn't sound like the praise band," senior Beth Lee said as she entered the Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) sanctuary for what she thought would be a typical Wednesday night Campus Church service.

Instead of David McKinney and the rest of the praise band, Lee heard DOGS. of Pray, a Christian gothic rock band, or as President of Liberty Theological Seminary Dr. Ergun Caner refers to them, a "hair metal" band.

The band is comprised of Bobbi and Eddie Folk, Doug Zirk, Tom Meadows and Eric Walter.

Eddie Folk said the band's history began years ago when the members all played for various secular bands out west. The original band was made up of different members but that group fell apart, paving the way for the group that is currently together.

The band was excited to finally have the opportunity to play at Liberty.

"Everybody's heard of Liberty so we knew a lot about Liberty and we also knew that we're different than most bands that come here," Folk said. "We thought we could make an impact and show people that you can be Christian and still be crazy like we are."

Bobbi loved the crowd of students who were expecting a normal church

service. Some students left, but many remained for the entire night to enjoy the unique and unexpected concert.

"(The students) were having fun and relaxing and listening to the music and getting the lyrics at the same time," Bobbi said. "Sometimes you just have to let your hair down and have fun. It's okay to do that as a Christian."

The concert was not without a point, however. Whether Caner is shaving his beard on-stage or allowing himself to be shocked with a taser gun, there is always a reason behind his unconventional tactics.

Caner's sermon revolved around the phrase in Ecclesiastes 10:1, "A dead fly gives perfume a bad smell."

Caner reversed the connotation of the phrase to say that one Christian can make a positive difference. He shared a story about street evangelism on Bourbon Street in New Orleans during Halloween.

He felt sorry for himself because he was unable to get through to anyone but then he saw one man playing Christian music on the side of the street with a box full of gospel tracts and New Testaments.

Caner found out the man played on the street three nights a week and

he persevered despite the fact that he was not wanted there.

Caner continued the sermon by quoting Salvation Army founder William Booth who believed that Christians should stand just outside the gates of Hell.

Christians should not be hiding in churches and trying to pull away from the world, according to Caner. Instead, Christians should be out on the front lines sharing the gospel in places no one else is willing or able to go.

DOGS. of Pray is a group of Christians who take the gospel to the front lines by playing in venues that typical Christian music artists could never get into.

"Our mission is really to get into places with our look and our style of music and really touch a lot of people for the sake of the Lord," Eddie Folk said. "We just hope they feed off the music to get the message."

Contact Emily DeFosse at ebdefosse@liberty.edu.

20% off

Wedding Invitations



Call All Wedding Essentials at 434.316.0055 or Visit www.AllWeddingEssentials.com
View full line catalogs and samples in store at 2319-A Lakeside Dr., Lynchburg

the Spring House

Restaurant & Reception Hall

All inclusive dinners brought to your table in bowls and platters and served family style

Choice of entrees per table:
Marinated beef tips • Oven Fried Chicken • Fried Flounder
Pork BBQ Baby Back Ribs • Fried Shrimp
Grilled Ham Steaks • Virginia Pork BBQ • Sliced Roast Beef
Country Fried Steak • Steamed Shrimp • Prime Rib

5 Side dishes included:
Macaroni and Cheese • Whipped Potatoes • Green Beans
Sweet Potato Casserole • Corn Pudding
Cole Slaw • Fresh Fruits • Biscuits
Homemade dessert and ice tea included.
All items offered for one inclusive price
Adults \$13.00 • Children under 12 \$6.50 • 2 and under FREE

Private rooms available for Wedding Receptions, Rehearsal Dinners, Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations and Business Retreats.
Separate Menus Available.

434-993-2475

Hours: Thurs-Sat 4:30 - 9:00pm
Sunday Noon 3:00pm
10 Minutes from Lynchburg on Route 460 East

Ayers

AUTOMOTIVE

Lynchburg Virginia
845-0060
"A mechanic you can trust!"

2007 We were voted 2nd Best Automotive Repair Shop in "Lynchburg Living Magazine"

All minor & major automotive repairs • Foreign & Domestic State Inspection Station • Tires • Oil Changes • Wrecker Service

Glenn Huddleston - Certified Master Tech.
Mike Gavin - ASE & GM Certified Tech.

Shop Owner: Brenda Ayers

Phone: (434) 845-0060 or (434) 444-5733
Email: ayersautoinc@aol.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 8AM - 5:30 PM
4913 Richmond Hwy, Lynchburg, VA 24504

Directions - Leaving River Ridge Mall heading East on 460. 3 miles on the left, across from Shell store. Close to new 29 North - Bypass

COUPON

\$29.95 OIL CHANGE
Up to 5 qts. Oil, includes oil filter & 23 point check. No hidden fees.
Expires 4/30/09

NEED TO BREATHE

NeedToBreathe and Article One inspire at CFAW during finale of 8-week tour

The excitement of the audience was palpable by the time the music started. Melodic vibrations made the air heavy like the blanket of humidity that had covered Liberty's campus for the entire week. By the time Article One's Matt Dube was playing his violin behind his back, half the audience of the Vines Center was on their feet, screaming and clapping.

The weekend of April 3 hosted not only College For A Weekend, but a concert featuring NeedToBreathe and Article One. Article One opened the 8 p.m. concert. The band performed songs from both its CDs, including "Without You (I'm Not Alright)," "Say It Again" and "In No Time At All." After leading the audience in cheering contest and a few blistering violin solos, Article One left the stage and NeedToBreathe was introduced for the first time at Liberty. The band performed favorites from its two current records, including "Haley," "Shine On," "Signature of the Divine (Yidweh)" and its hit song featured on the movie "PS I Love You." "More Time" Before the show, the Champion had a one-on-one interview with the guitarist, songwriter and lead vocalist of NeedToBreathe, Bear Rinehart.

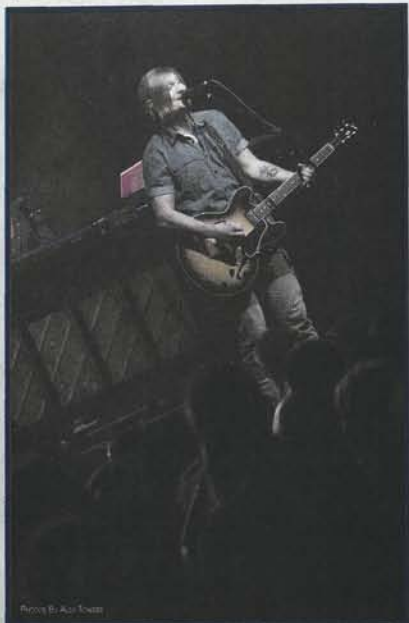


Photo by Alex Thomas

Tiffany Edwards
LIFE! REPORTER

Champion: How long have you been playing together and how did you meet?

Rinehart: The bands been around now for almost 10 years, we've all known each other since we were kids.

Champion: What is your vision for

your band? How do you plan to make that vision a reality?

Rinehart: Our vision has changed every year that we've been a band, as we've learned more and more about ourselves and what we want to be. We want to do this for the rest of our lives — we're kinda fallen in love with it.

We feel we can do that by being a self-sustaining band; not really depending solely on radio play or a record



label, even though we have those things now. We don't have to borrow everything from labels, so that when they're ready for us to be off the road, we don't have to be, and we can keep doing what we want to do.

Musically, we try to find fans that like who we are for what we have to say and what we're about, and not necessarily about a certain song or individual thing, genre or fad. If we feel like we want to make a rock record, or country, or blues or an acoustic record, we want fans who will be there for that.

Champion: Where do you get your inspiration for your music?

Rinehart: All over the place. We're southern, so that comes through a lot. We try to write as real songs as possible, about our families, relationships, we've had in the past, our faith, and it all sort of comes together. There really isn't any sort of declaration or set decision about our songs, it's more about the inspiration.

Champion: Are there any songs that you were especially inspired to write with personal meaning?

Rinehart: Our current record, "Washed by the Water," was inspired by a true story about Bo's and my dad. It was really cool that it was accepted widely and was as successful as it was. "More Time" was in the movie "PS I Love You." It kind of got a lot of use in that way, in TV and stuff like that. That was a song we had written to our families about how long it's taken to make it in the music business.

Oddly, it's thought of as a relationship song, but it's really derived from the fact that we were telling our families. Look, we'll be fine, soon, we'll make enough money to get this going.

Champion: What was the inspiration for your album's names?

Rinehart: "Daylight" was a song on the first record that was actually a tribute to the Johnny Cash song "Long Black Veil," but the song's meaning was more about telling the truth no matter what the consequences will be. That was something we really faced. We were with a major label, and there were a lot of people around us telling us what we ought to be. We really felt like we needed to be ourselves regardless of whether it was going to make us successful. We thought that should be something we should have on our first record. "The Heat," our second record, was an extension of that. I think we were very proud of that record because it's just more us than we've ever been before.

Champion: What is it like performing in front of and interacting with thousands of people in a single night?

Rinehart: Tonight, it's really scary. We've been in the studio for the last four months, so we've barely played any shows. But that makes it exciting too, and incredibly rewarding. We try to make it real. If we enjoy it, we feel like people are going to enjoy it with us.

Champion: What are your favorite bands?

Rinehart: Probably my first major influence, in trying to write were the Black Crowes — it was all that sort of roots rock stuff — I liked a lot of soulful sounds and Ohs Redding. My brother was a big fan of British pop, the U2 kind of vibe. Our drummer's a straight up rocker, like Pearl Jam and that era. It all comes together to form something unique, something that affects people.

Champion: Do you have any advice for students who want to get into the music industry?

Rinehart: Well, it depends on what area you want to get into, but for us the key has just been sticking together. The first few years we were doing this, we were in a 1978 GMC gypsy van with no air conditioning, traveling through Florida and breaking down all the time. All the sort of classic stories. Pretty much everyone around us thought we were crazy to keep on doing it. I think it made us a lot stronger, and built us into who we are, and I'm really proud of that.

Contact Tiffany Edwards at tredwards2@liberty.edu.



innovatechurch
CHRISTIAN LEADERS CONFERENCE



Special for LU Students:
\$10.00 for the ENTIRE CONFERENCE

MAY 18 - 20, 2009
THOMAS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

www.innovatechurch.us
800.424.9592

sakinās



TRINA TURK
434.384.1010
4109 Boonsboro Road
www.sakinaspas.com

FEATURING

Trina Turk
Beth Bowley
Three Dots
Michael Stars

THE SPA at SAKINAS
your ideal retreat
offers services such as:
facials, manicures,
pedicures, hair
services, body
massage, body
treatments, spray
tan, hair removal, and
makeup.

the SPA at
SAKINAS
surprisingly different...

Featured products:
Sakinas NV Dryness
Tropic La Bella D'Amore
Mineral Makeup, Barely
Italian Hair Care, Exotic
OPI, St Tropez



434.384.9338
4109 Boonsboro Road
www.sakinaspas.com