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Enrollment reaches 50,000

Cat Hewett
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Liberty University was founded on faith and a few big hairy audacious goals (BHAG), one of which was recently reached. Liberty Founder and Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr. wanted an evangelical, Christian college with 50,000 students and his son Jerry Falwell Jr.

announced Wednesday that his father's goal had been reached.

"We're now the world's largest Christian university," Jerry Falwell Jr. said. "We've been blessed here with so much, and we're excited about what the future holds."

Liberty Co-founder and Dean of the B.R. Lankin School of Religion Elmer Towns cannot remember exactly when he and Jerry Fal-

well Sr. decided they wanted Liberty University to be the largest Christian university in the country, but that became their goal very early in their ministry.

"Jerry and I agreed we wanted a big Christian college, because we wanted a big influence, because we wanted to reach the world for Jesus Christ," Towns said.

The biggest evangelical Christian colleges

that Falwell and Towns could think of were Bob Jones University and Tennessee Temple University who both had 4,500 students. So, Liberty's founders decided that they wanted 5,000 students, according to Towns.

See GROWTH on A4

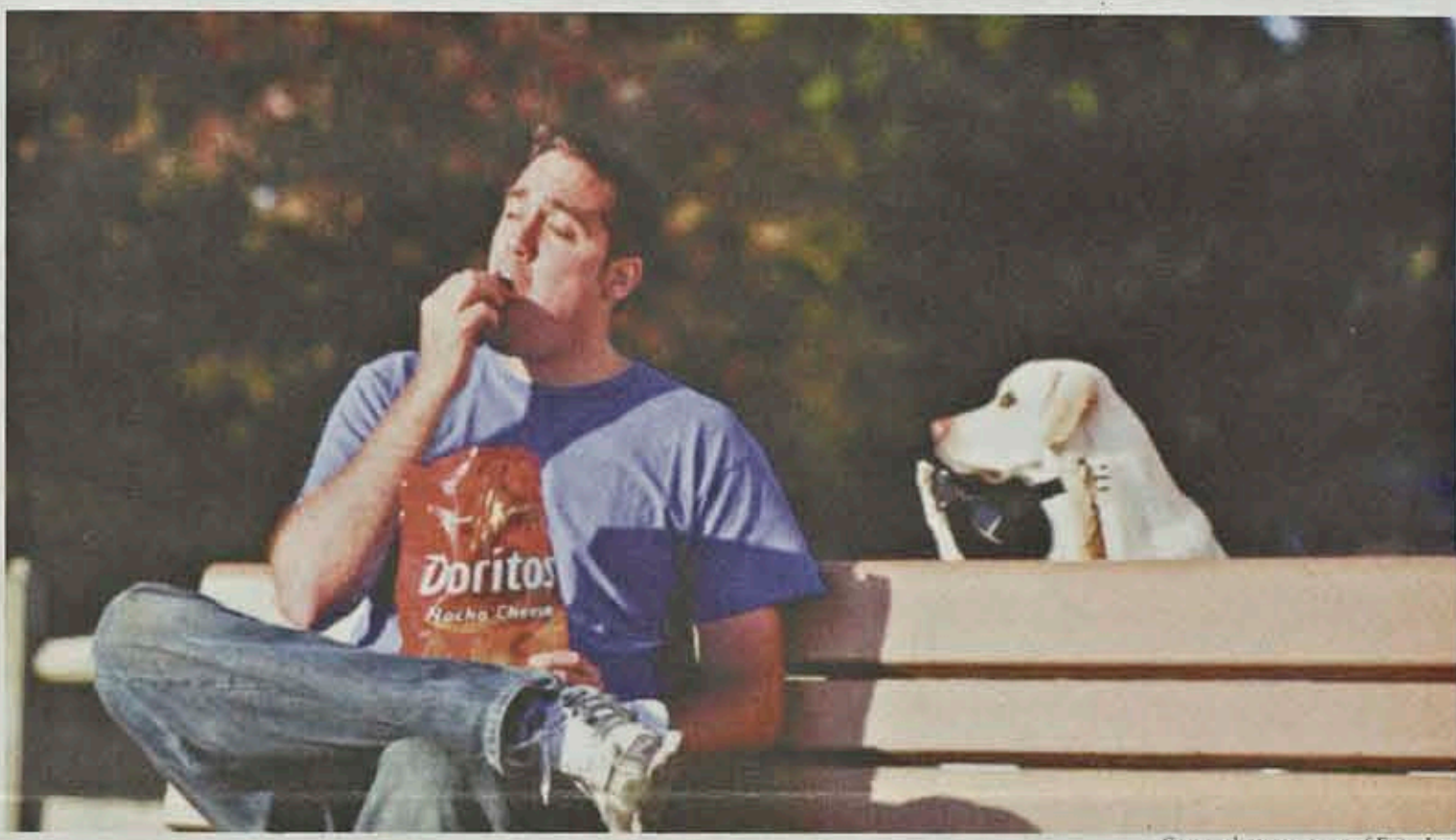
IN THE NEWS

HAITI: JUDGE TO DETERMINE IF AMERICANS ARE RELEASED

A Haitian judge will decide the fate of 10 American missionaries, imprisoned for attempting to take a bus of Haitian children out of the country.

Judge Bernard Saint-Vil finished questioning the Americans on Wednesday, according to WJLA-TV. Judge Saint-Vil told the Associated Press that he will recommend all 10 missionaries to be released. He is expected to make his final decision on Thursday, according to WJLA-TV.

The missionaries, most of whom were from an Idaho Baptist group, were charged last week with child kidnapping and criminal association after being arrested Jan. 29 trying to take 33 children, ages 2 to 12, across the border to the Dominican Republic.



Screenshot courtesy of Frito-Lay

CANINE TAKES REVENGE — Liberty Alumnus Nick Dimondi produced the USA Today's second choice for best Super Bowl commercial of 2010 with his Doritos commercial "Underdog." Dimondi graduated in 2007 with a specialization in broadcast journalism and runs the North Carolina-based ad agency Five Point Productions. Dimondi produced two of the six finalists in Frito Lay's Crash the Super Bowl commercial contest and won a total of \$650,000.

"SNOWMAGEDDON" IN D.C.

Washington, D.C., broke the record for the highest snowfall amounts on Wednesday, as some areas have received up to 54 inches over the past week, according to Fox News.

Residents were advised to stay off the roads, and snow plows stopped running because of safety concerns.

The federal government was closed for a third straight day due to the hazardous conditions. This is the longest weather-related government shutdown since 1996, when employees did not have to go to work for a full week, according to Fox News.

More snow is expected to fall in the area early next week, according to WJLA-TV.

POWER PLANT BLAST KILLS FIVE IN CONNECTICUT

Five people were killed and 12 were injured Sunday, Feb. 7, after a gas explosion at the Kleen Power Plant in Middletown, Conn., a suburb of Hartford.

Workers were working on a natural gas pipeline when the explosion occurred, according to CNN. Residents up to 20 miles away reported hearing the blast at about 11:19 a.m., according to CNN.

Middletown Mayor Sebastian Giuliano assured nearby residents that there was no threat of substances getting into the atmosphere or of a possible subsequent explosion.

Life LIBERTY Lynchburg

Amanda Sullivan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Potential polling place causes strife

Location is everything — a concept that many Lynchburg City Councilmen seem to comprehend. On Tuesday, Feb. 9, the city council put to vote the request to move the Ward III-4 polling place from Heritage Elementary School, which is where Liberty University resident students cast their ballots. The vote passed, but the new suggested polling place is only marginally closer to its largest bloc of voters, bypassing Liberty's offer of the old Circuit City building, which is 1.3 miles from campus.

Residents within Ward III-4 precinct may have to travel to Lynchburg First Church of the Nazarene to vote, but the decision is not final as Councilmen Jeff Helgeson and Turner Perrow have requested a "special meeting" to discuss relocating the polling place to an alternative location. The suggested location is 4.33 miles away from campus. The previous location at Heritage Elementary School was 4.76 miles from campus, according to Mapquest.

"The Circuit City building has excellent parking — easy in and out. It's within the American's with Disability Act (ADA) compliance. The buses can

come in and drop off students and other riders, and everyone knows where it is. It's a good location," Helgeson said.

"The Lynchburg First Church of the Nazarene is a worse location than Heritage Elementary because of lack of parking, and a two lane road," Helgeson said. "Buses cannot get in good and will have to stop on the road to drop off and pick up passengers, blocking traffic. Students will have to walk across Wards Ferry Road."

Not all Lynchburg residents agree that moving the polling place closer to Liberty would be wise.

"That is disrespectful to the permanent residents of this precinct," Vice Mayor Bert Dodson said at the meeting. "(There is) pressure from residents to not be treated as second class citizens."

Mayor Joan Foster echoed Dodson's remarks, saying that she has not heard from Liberty students about the potential move.

However, she had heard from "Citizens asking 'Why are you messing with my precinct,'" according to Foster at the meeting.

See SERIES on A3

Snow proves costly to university ❄️❄️

Cat Hewett
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

In the 2000 movie "Snow Day," a snow storm causes schools to be cancelled in an upstate New York town. The movie follows one family as they try to take advantage of the day off.

Liberty University students got their taste of snow day fever this semester when the first of many snow storms hit Friday night Jan. 29, and the snow plows have not stopped since.

"We work around the clock," Liberty Director of Field Operations Scott Starnes said. "We actually split the shift up. We put half of the crew from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the second crew from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m., seven days a week until we can get control of the situation." ❄️❄️❄️

See WINTER on A5

Liberty heads to CPAC

Tiffany Edwards
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

For the young conservatives at Liberty, the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, D.C., is a pretty big deal. Last year, Liberty organized caravans, assisted students with making hotel arrangements and also excused students who were attending CPAC during their classes.

Held every February, CPAC is known as the largest conservative conference in the United States, and attracts conservative students, activists and policy makers from all over the country.

In February 2009, Liberty hosted a reception for students, alumni and affiliates at the conference and had roughly 150 people in attendance.

See CPAC on A2

90 Words AROUND LIBERTY

Nashville talent to grace Liberty

Andy Davis, Nashville pop singer and song writer, will be performing at the Tilley Center Feb. 27 at 9 p.m. The event will be free for students with college ID. Davis' newest CD is "Let The Woman," sold exclusively at Barnes and Nobles.

Bluetree to perform

Bluetree, along with special guest Nic Carver from Brentwood Church, will be performing Feb. 20, 8 p.m. at the Schilling Center. The cost will be \$5 for Liberty students, staff and faculty who purchase tickets in advance online. Tickets will be \$8 at the door. For the general public the cost for tickets will be \$10 if bought in advance and \$12 at the door. Bluetree's music "ranges from acoustic ballads to rock/pop," according to Bluetree's Web site.

New club teams for the fall semester

Liberty University is in the process of debating which new club teams to add for the fall semester. The teams considered include men's lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, women's D-II hockey and broomball. Students interested in playing on a club team should e-mail Tatiana Gomez, tmgomez@liberty.edu, to guarantee a position on one of the teams. These teams are not guaranteed to be added unless students show an interest.

Jadan Horyn Elected 2nd Vice Chair

Sarah Stockslager
NEWS REPORTER

Senior Jadan Horyn was elected Second Vice Chairman of the College Republican Federation of Virginia (CRFV) at the organization's annual convention in December of 2009.

Just over a month later, Horyn, a government major with a specialization in politics and policy, became the First Vice Chairman of CRFV after the elected officer resigned mid-January.

Horyn initially planned to seek re-election as treasurer at the annual convention. However, when the student running for the position of Second Vice Chairman stepped down the day before the election, Horyn decided to run.

"I really felt that it was necessary to the CRFV to move forward," Horyn said.

It was a close race, according to the chairman of the Liberty University chapter of the College Republicans Caleb Mast. He said that Horyn won by one vote.

The election was secret ballot, and each chapter of the CRFV was allocated votes based on the size of their chapter, Liberty's chapter being the largest, according to Horyn.

Horyn became the first Liberty University student ever to be elected to the CRFV. Originally from Easton, Pa., Horyn has been in the CRFV since December 2008 when he was elected treasurer.

"Liberty was underrepresented ... I really felt that Liberty really needed to know what was going on statewide," Horyn said.

Horyn's duties as the second in command of CRFV are to assist Chairman Lena Morrill of Sweet Briar College in appointing College Republicans within district committees, taking part in conference calls and attending bimonthly meetings, appointing members to the executive committees and



ELI OVERBEY

MOVING UP — Liberty student Jadan Horyn will serve as second vice chair of the College Republicans of Virginia.

evaluating each chapter's constitution annually, according to Horyn.

Morrill works closely with Horyn to coordinate political activities across Virginia.

"We work closely in preparing for the new year, attending meetings with the party, and supporting College Republican (CR) activities across the state."

Morrill says that the CRFV provides a link between the Republican Party of Virginia and the more than 30 chapters of College Republicans in Virginia.

"The CRFV exists to support the Republican Party of Virginia by mobilizing conservative students on college campuses across the Commonwealth to support the Republican nominee," Mast said.

Horyn said he enjoys being able to travel and work with all the chapters across the state. He also finds it rewarding to meet and foster young leaders and make decisions on the inside. He says the experience is "completely unparalleled."

Horyn encourages Christians to get involved in politics, especially college students because they are "idealistic."

"At this age, you have the time, the ability," Horyn said. "We really can change the world."

Horyn believes Christians should participate in politics because of passages like Micah 6:8, Zechariah 7:9 and Psalms 106:3 that point out God requires Christians to be just, he said.

"I believe that as Christians, being involved in politics is absolutely essential," Horyn said. "God requires us to show justice, because government is accountable to people, the people must ensure the government is just."

Horyn also currently co-hosts The Rude Awakening, a political talk show Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. on 90.9 The Light. Upon graduation, Horyn plans to continue his education at Liberty, earning his MA degree in Management and Leadership and his MBA. He plans to attend law school fall 2011.

Contact Sarah Stockslager at scstockslager@liberty.edu.

CPAC continued

CPAC attracts big-name speakers and attendees every year, including John Ashcroft, Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul and Glenn Beck. Liberty University's School of Law has been a sponsor of CPAC for the past couple of years, until this past December, when significant changes affected CPAC's sponsor list.

The conflict began in early December 2009. It started with a blog post on the Web site for GOProud, a gay conservative activist group, which announced that GOProud would be co-sponsoring CPAC 2010, which will be taking place Feb. 18-20.

GO Proud "is committed to a traditional conservative that emphasizes limited government, individual liberty, free markets and a confident foreign policy," according to GO Proud's Web site.

GO Proud is also well known for their advo-

cacy of same-sex marriage, homosexual civil unions and the repealing of the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"GOProud is thrilled to be a co-sponsor of the single most important conservative gathering in the country," Executive Director of GOProud Jimmy LaSalvia said in the Dec. 16 article in OneNewsNow.

By Dec. 21, another article was published describing the letter sent to CPAC organizer and American Conservative Union Chairman David Keene.

The letter was written and signed by a group of evangelical conservatives involved with the conference, led by Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. and School of Law Dean Mat Staver. The letter was essentially an ultimatum: remove GOProud from co-sponsoring the conference, or Liberty will boycott CPAC 2010.

"We only learned about it through blogs that alerted us to it," Staver said. "We didn't

even get word from CPAC that they had brought this group on. Then we looked at this organization, its mission is to promote same-sex unions, same-sex marriage ... and the repeal of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. Those are not conservative issues or conservative values."

OneNewsNow reported on Jan. 13 the School of Law had officially withdrawn as a sponsor of CPAC 2010. According to Staver, Liberty never received a formal response to their complaint, which led to the withdrawal.

Liberty Counsel will still have a booth at this year's CPAC. Next year's attendance is still unknown.

"Whether Liberty Counsel will even have a booth there next year, we don't know," Staver said. "We've pulled out because we don't feel that it's appropriate to put Liberty University's School of Law side by side with an organization who's purpose is to undermine part of the mission of the university."

The conflict has drawn little national interest. According to Staver, he was approached for numerous interviews, which he turned down.

"Our goal was not to poke CPAC in the eye. We've been a co-sponsor, and we did not have any intention to slap CPAC or make them embarrassed. That's not what this is about. This is about a principle."

Staver still encourages students to attend.

"As far as Liberty students involvement in CPAC ... I would encourage our students to be involved and be vocal, make a difference, to stand up for (Christian) principles and make their voice known. I think it's perfectly permissible for the students to attend CPAC and learn what they can ... and positively impact CPAC."

Since CPAC has been removed from Liberty's primary agenda for this year, Staver has other plans for Liberty's involvement in the conservative movement, including April's Freedom Federation Summit, which will be held on Liberty's campus.

Contact Tiffany Edwards at tredwards2@liberty.edu.

LIBERTY CHAMPION

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Send letters to:

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SERIES Continued from A1

City Council members were also asked to consider the fact that Candler's Station is outside the voting precinct.

"State code does allow a polling place to be located outside the precinct," City Attorney Walter Erwin said at the council meeting on Feb. 9. "The state code does say that a polling place can be located within a one mile boundary of the precinct."

Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) offered its location as a potential polling place.

Heritage High School was also a suggested site, according to the City Council meeting.

Council members were also asked to consider potential traffic congestion, which includes available parking spots and handicap parking spots.

Many have argued that relocating the polling place would make it cumbersome for the other voters. However, other Virginia com-

munities have made voting easily accessible to collegiate voters. In fact, Liberty University's precinct has comparable voter numbers as the precincts of Virginia Tech (VT), and University of Virginia (UVA) and more than Lynchburg College (LC).

- The VT precinct has a total of 5,715 registered voters with 1,317 actual voters casting their ballots in 2009, according to the Blacksburg Registrar.

- The UVA has two precincts where students may vote, depending upon where they live on campus. The first is Alumni Hall, which has a total of 2,804 registered voters, of which 1,517 voted in the November 2008 election, according to the Charlottesville Registrar. The second location is Venable Elementary School, where there are 5,628 registered voters with 2,988 voting in the Fall 2008 election, according to the Charlottesville Registrar.

- The LC precinct has a total of 3,923 regis-

tered voters with 1,447 voting in the last 2009 local election, according to the Lynchburg Registrar.

- Liberty University's voting precinct has 5,599 registered voters with 2,305 voting in the Fall 2009 election, according to the Lynchburg Registrar.

The colleges also have polling places within three miles of their campuses.

- VT students are only required to travel 2.8 miles to vote.

- UVA students have a polling location on-campus at their Alumni Hall and at Venable Elementary School, both are less than 1.7 miles away from the campus.

- LC's polling place is 1.8 miles away at Memorial Christian Church on Perrymont Avenue.

- Liberty students were asked to travel 4.76 miles to Heritage Elementary School.

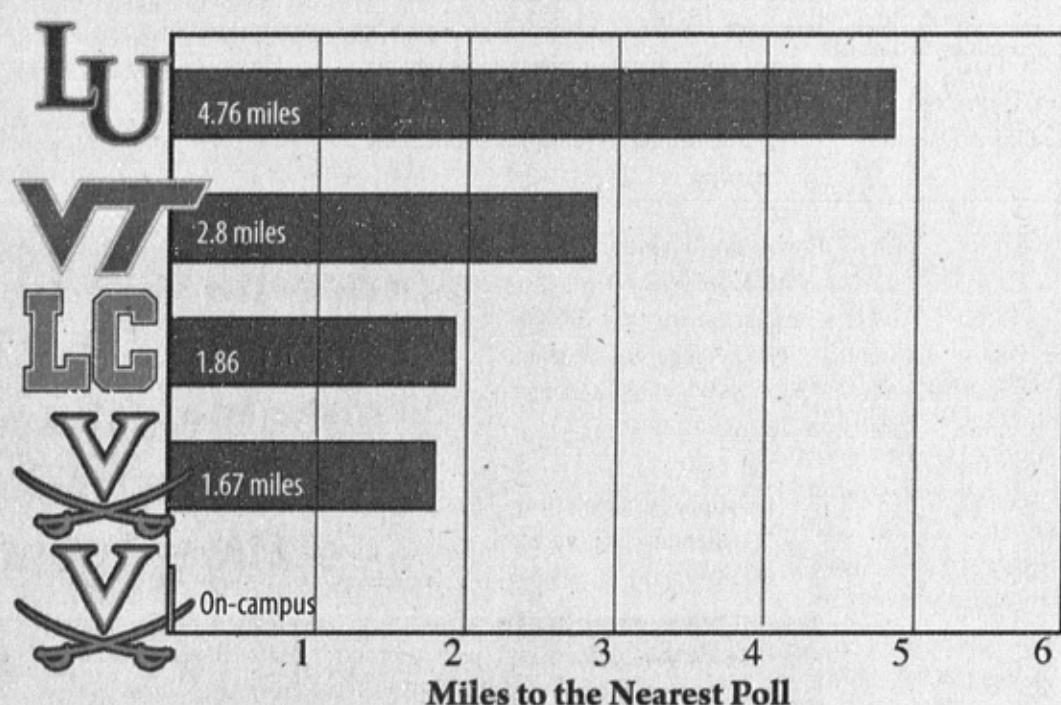
The City Council's decision must be made

quickly in order for the change to take effect prior to the upcoming May 4 election. The proposal must be submitted to the Justice Department for approval 60 days before the election.

"If we're going to make a change to the polling place, I want it to be a change for the better," Helgeson said.

The Lynchburg City Council has scheduled a special meeting to discuss moving the Ward III-4 polling place to accommodate voters. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The proposed voting sites will include TRBC and the Circuit City building in Candler's Station, according to Helgeson.

Contact Amanda Sullivan at
amsullivan3@liberty.edu.



A Look at Polling

The proposal to move the Ward III-4 polling location closer to Liberty University is a matter of concern to Lynchburg City Council and to the student body.

The undergraduate student population at LC is 2,589. Liberty's student body is five times larger than that of LC at just under 12,000. UVA has 13,762 undergraduate students, and VT has the most with 23,567. There are no numbers to show exactly how many students voted in each of the precincts below.

The distance to the polling location for Liberty students is almost twice as far than that of Virginia Tech students. Voter turnout was 18 percent higher at the Liberty precinct.

How students can be represented

For students to be represented locally, they must be heard. Mayor Joan Foster, commenting on the uproar over a possible change to the Ward III-4 polling location, said she has heard nothing from Liberty students but has heard plenty from citizens. There are three different ways to get involved and make a difference locally.

1. Write a letter to the editor.

To be taken seriously, students must show the community that they are educated and informed about local issues and the opinion page is a forum to be heard. Letters can be sent electronically to the Lynchburg News and Advance Web site. Address all correspondence to Logan Anderson, Opinion Editor, letters@newsadvance.com.

2. Attend the Feb. 23 City Council meeting.

During this special meeting, citizens and students will have a chance to voice their opinion regarding the polling change. A strong turnout from the student body will show both the city council and local citizens that students both have a right and desire to be involved.

3. Personally write Lynchburg City Council members.

A letter writing campaign that continues to advance the public debate regarding this issue can be influential. This will again show city council that students are concerned regarding the issue of local representation. Correspondence can be addressed to any of the following council members.

Michael A. Gillette
2336 Surrey Place
Lynchburg, VA 24503
michael.gillette@lynchburgva.gov

Turner Perrow
3451 Willow Lawn Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24503
turner.perrow@lynchburgva.gov

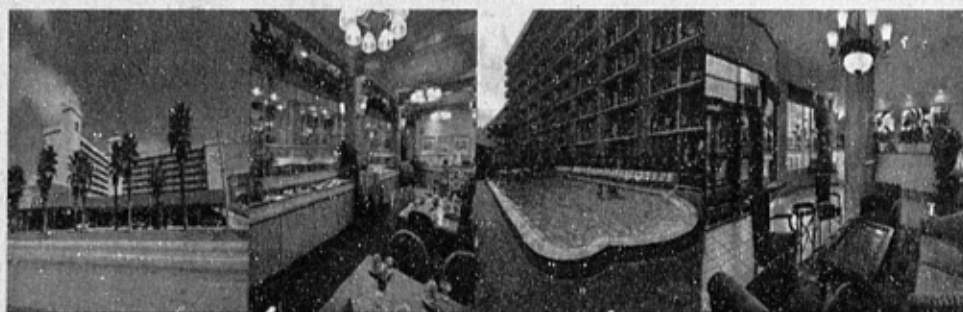
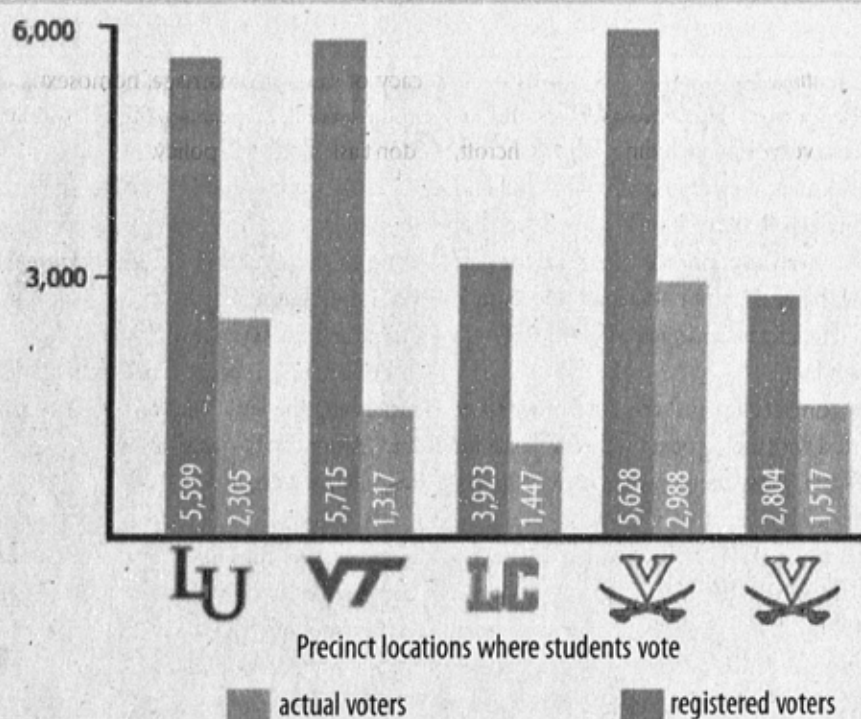
Joan F. Foster, Mayor
300 Woodland Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503
joan.foster@lynchburgva.gov

J. Randolph Nelson
1626 Morrison Drive
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3332 Dorchester Court
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Abby Armbruster
NEWS REPORTER

Contact Abby Armbruster at
aarmbruster@liberty.edu.


GROWTH continued

Contact Cat Hewett at
cahewett@liberty.edu.

**"When he said 50,000,
I thought, 'That is
laughable'... It was a
laugh of unbelief."
— Elmer Towns**



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS — Co-founder Elmer Towns speaks to students during Liberty's first convocation service.



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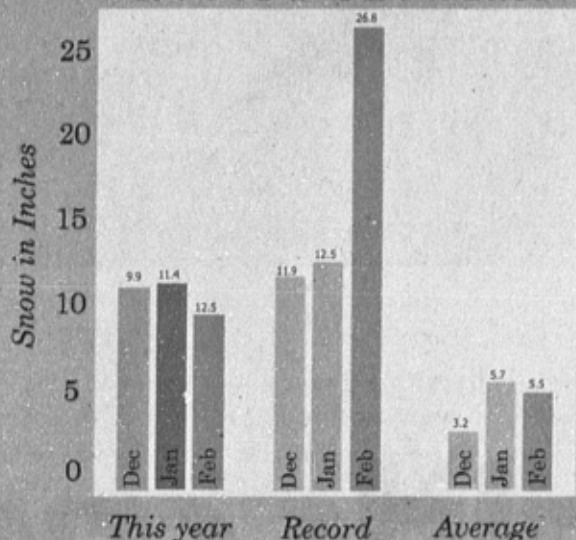
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Lynchburg's Record Snowfall



SNOW HITS LYNCHBURG — The recent snow storms have put Lynchburg well over the average snowfall, but have not quite reached record-breaking heights yet according to the National Weather Service.

WINTER continued

Keeping roads and sidewalks clear has been difficult, according to Starnes. The National Weather Service (NOAA) reported that Lynchburg has received 32.7 in. of snow this season.

"It is near record-breaking," Liberty Director of Planning and Construction Charles Spence said.

Starnes said that overtime for workers and fuel for equipment and chemicals, including salt for the roads, will cost Liberty approximately \$150,000.

The snow has cancelled and delayed schools around the region. Virginia Tech University had two delays, one early release and one full day cancelled, while Lynchburg College had six delays.

Liberty plowing crews have several priorities when plowing, according to Starnes. First

they plow in front of dorms where physically challenged students live, then the main exits from the dormitories and the parking lots.

"There are a lot of factors in it," Starnes said. "Our biggest challenge is when we have a parking lot full of cars, it is hard for us to get in and actually do an efficient job."

Starnes also said that because so much manpower has been moved to help clear the roads, work tickets and minor repairs might take longer response times than normal.

The snow has caused few other issues around the university. Spence said that a few pipes have burst, snow plows will need repair and issues at Liberty's newest residence, the Lynchburg Inn, have come to light.

"We just realized how energy inefficient (the Lynchburg Inn) is during this weather,"

Spence said.

Spence also said that the construction on campus has basically stopped.

"It has been tough," Spence said. "We cannot get materials to the site, even our construction workers could not get here some days. On the planning side, it has really been a godsend. It gave us a little time to work on some design issues which should result in better productivity in the long run to make up for the time lost to weather."

Director of Auxiliary Services Lee Beaumont said that other activities severely hurt by the storms were food services and on-campus events.

"We have to do a lot more planning ahead, stocking up five days worth of food in the dining hall, because you never know," Beaumont said. "If the roads were shut down for whatever reasons, we still

have to feed 6,700 students on the meal plan."

Beaumont said that he had to put some of the dining workers in the Wingate hotel so that they could come into work. Beaumont also said that he and other departments had to send workers to help keep the roads clear so that some Liberty facilities could open.

"If we did not open the student center, Snowflex, the ice rink and things like that, what would the students do?" Beaumont said. "They would be stuck here. The bottom line is that we still have to work to service the students."

Contact Cat Hewett at cahewett@liberty.edu.

VIOLIN PLAYER GETS BAD BREAK DURING SNOW STORM

Cat Hewett
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

The snow was thick on the ground the night of Saturday, Jan. 30, as junior Kelly Wakefield walked back to her dorm from practicing her violin in the music hall. Wakefield's trip took a wrong turn when she slipped and fell outside of the Vines Center.

"My feet just went out from under me," Wakefield said. "I fell on my elbow."

Wakefield got up, went back to her dorm and fell asleep.

"I was in denial," Wakefield said. "I was thinking, 'I cannot have broken my arm, I am a violinist.'"

The next day, however, Wakefield found out that she had broken her arm just below the elbow. Wakefield got a cast the next day and found out that she would not be able to play for four to five weeks.

Because of her injury, Wakefield has had to drop her instrumental conducting and brass classes. She will also have to graduate a semester later than she had planned.

"I have a four-year scholarship because my parents are missionaries," Wakefield said. "So, I really wanted to finish in four years."

One of Wakefield's teachers directed her to the Student Advocate Office. Wakefield filled out a let-

ter of inquiry and her scholarship was extended to cover her extra semester.

"I think this was God's answer to my prayers," Wakefield said. "I was so stressed at the beginning of the semester and this will give me more time to really concentrate on my playing."

Any student who faces an emergency can contact the Student Advocate Office by calling (434) 582-7200 or e-mailing studentadvocate@liberty.edu.

Contact Cat Hewett at cahewett@liberty.edu.



CAT HEWETT



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2

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Department of
Veterans Affairs



Why boys make girls cry

GRAPHIC PROVIDED PER SXC.HU

Ethan Massey
OPINION REPORTER

Men have long wondered at the minds of women. At every stage of a relationship, many couples find themselves on different pages much of the time. Though guys tend to settle for surface explanations, they fail to realize just how deep the rabbit hole goes.

One major difference between males and females is the near obsession that women have with relationships. Sixty-nine percent of women say they often think about their relationship with their significant other, according to a survey by Decision Analyst. While this may be an alarming statistic to some men, it points to a need for reassurance that even more are unaware of.

In its essence, the female need for reassurance is a need to continually know they are loved, according to Jeff Feldhahn, author of "For Men Only." Feldhahn shows that many things may trigger a woman's insecurities and the best way to ease them is for a man to assure her of his love. While this ties into her emotional security, it also contributes to a woman's need to be heard.

Most men can relate with the need to fix a problem. So when a guy's girlfriend tells him about a problem she is having, he

automatically jumps into handyman mode. This is where men run into a break down of communication.

"(Men) don't understand why all (women) want to do is talk," Liberty University psychology professor Dr. Larry Anderson said.

Men seldom realize that the real problem is how the woman feels about the problem.

"A lot of times if she feels heard and understood," Anderson said. "To her there is no problem."

Another area of misunderstanding is that of beauty. Women want to be found attractive. An astounding 89 percent of women say it makes their day if their significant other tells them they are beautiful, according to a Decision Analyst survey.

In a very literal way, many women crave a confirmation of their beauty. Men hold remarkable power in this area, according to Feldhahn. While the right words can build her up, critical words or even a look at another girl can level her. Due to this dichotomy, it is crucial that guys understand a girl's longing to be beautiful and to be pursued.

This is the one area that tends to confuse men the most — a woman's need for pursuit. Contrary to popular belief, this is not the equivalent of stalking. Pursuit is when a guy flirts with the

girl he is after. It is in all the little presents he gives her and the notes he leaves her. It is the reason the girls go after John Tucker or James Bond. The pursuit that a girl desires is all about the little things and should not stop once a guy has "got" the girl.

Though facts and figures can be a great starting place, it is crucial "to become a student of understanding the opposite sex," Anderson said.

People must first fix their expectations before they can get an accurate view of the opposite sex. This does not mean guys should brood over all the nuances of the female mind, but that they need to realize that women do not think or act like men.

Guys have a long road to travel before they arrive at understanding the opposite gender. Though it will not be an easy journey, it is a trip into the unknown worth taking. As the love doctor Alex "Hitch" Hitchens (played by Will Smith) once said, "Any guy can sweep any girl off her feet, he just needs the right broom."

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New mixed martial arts ministry for believers

Sasha Braithwaite
OPINION REPORTER

Most people are typically repelled by "Bible beater" Christians, so chances are that most people are not going to be too keen on the idea of a ministry in which literal beatings occur.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is swiftly rising in the world of international sports. It is a combination of boxing and various forms of martial arts from all over the world, according to blurbosphere.com. Fight fans don the infamous "Tap Out" (the sport-related equivalent of crying "Uncle") tees and MTV viewers tune in to watch "Bully Beatdown," which features professional MMA fighters matching up against so-called "bullies" for a \$10,000 reward.

Now numerous evangelical churches all over the nation have "tapped" into the world of MMA fighting as a tool for ministry.

John Renken is the pastor of Xtreme Ministries, a church in Nashville that hosts a ministry through its own MMA academy. Renken serves as coach to the men enrolled in the academy where their motto is "Where Feet, Fist and Faith Collide." About 700 churches are participating in a fight ministry of some sort, according to the New York Times.

The New York Times article subtly portrayed a negative view of the fight ministry. It reported that before a match, Renken led a group of men in a prayer to be examples of Christ and then was later heard on the sidelines contradictorily yelling to a

fighter to serve "hard punches." Renken's men match up against both Christians and non-Christians.

Despite criticism, Renken and other participants stand firm behind the ministry, based on their belief that churches have been targeted toward women for too long and now men finally have a way for their spiritual needs to be met through a masculine sport. The ministry especially draws in males who come from gangs and troublesome backgrounds.

Pastors hope to make Christianity more appealing through fight ministries. They use mottos like "fight the good fight of faith" from Timothy 6:12 as foundational metaphors for the purpose of the ministry.

"Compassion and love — we agree with all that stuff, too, but what led me to find Christ was that Jesus was a fighter," lead pastor at Canyon Creek Church Brandon Beals said, according to the New York Times.

However, not all Christians support the new ministry fad. Eugene Cho, of Quest Church in Seattle and Executive Vice President of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals Robert Brady disapprove of the ministry.

"(MMA evangelism) so easily takes away from the real focus of the church, which is the Gospel," Brady said, according to New York Times.

They fear that men may be signing up to follow a Jesus different than the one portrayed in the Bible.

Although the MMA fight ministry is a bit unorthodox, there is nothing wrong with it as a whole. It is, after all, a recreational sport like any other and these men are not fighting out of a personal vendetta toward one another. People are becoming Christians through this rough man's sport and giving the credit to Jesus. Perhaps there may finally be a sign-up sheet rival to softball in the church bulletin.

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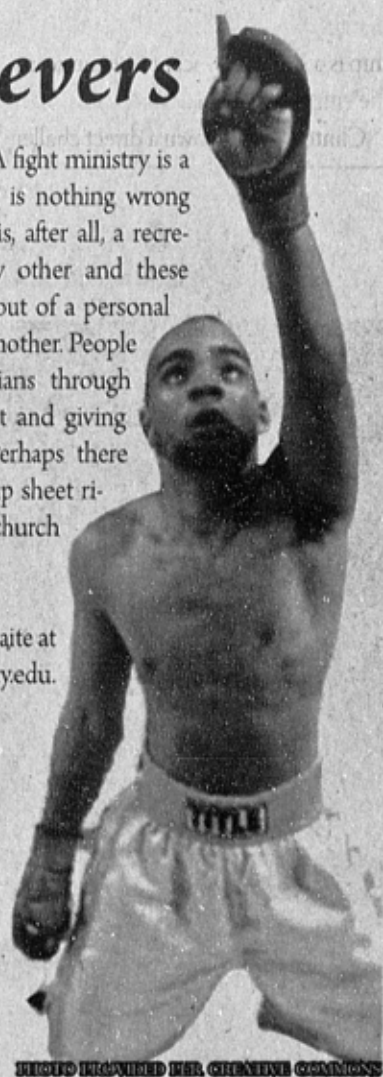


PHOTO PROVIDED PER CREATIVE COMMONS

FROM THE DESK

"Aw, man! I forgot to wash my jeans with my blue load. Now, I'll have to wash them with my red load."

"Oh my gosh... You are so Monica."

"What? No, I'm not. Why do you say that?"

"You just organized your laundry by color. I only have a dark load and a white load."

The dialogue above is just a peek of the conversation that I had with my roommate Brittany, who loudly proclaimed that I resembled the overtly type-A character Monica from the TV show "Friends." The whole situation came about during the recent onslaught of snow days that Lynchburg has seen over the past couple of weeks, which led to the watching of

the hit show.

Originally, Brittany and Danielle, one of my other roommates, were appalled that I had never watched the show, which is how the viewing marathon started in the first place. Both Danielle and Brittany agree that my personality is similar to Monica's. I think that they are both a little loopy, though. I mean, so what if I happen to like my writing utensils organized by pens, pencils and highlighters. Or if I happen to prefer that the silverware is separated by knife, spoon, fork and baking utensils in the dishwasher.

If I'm Monica, then that means my watching partners also have alter egos. I've determined that Danielle most resembles Phoebe and Brittany seems to sync with Rachel's personality. Not to mention, Brittany's boyfriend Michael and his roommate Tim mirror Chandler and Joey's awkward relationship.

As we continue to watch the series — we are now on season four — I've noticed that I have developed friendships similar to the bonds that "Friends" exploits. And I am curious to see where our story leads. On the flip side, having such wonderful friends makes my graduation day, which is hurdling towards me at lightning speed, a little bittersweet because my friends have somehow managed to become my family.

I have learned many things over the course of my college career. The lessons included instruction in the field of academics, spiritual life and social life — not to mention a few practical life lessons involving car maintenance and hospitals. I've acquired skills to handle almost every situation my car decides to throw my way. I've learned what it means to fully rely on God for all my needs, and I've learned how much I miss my family when I am at Liberty.

Although I still miss my family in Texas, my Liberty friends make the transition a little easier. They make me laugh, pick me up when I'm down and periodically stop by my office to say hi.

So if you happen to see a group of six or seven with brightly colored umbrellas dressed in black and white with a couch in front of the DeMoss Hall fountain, don't panic. It just means we've decided to film our own version of "Friends."

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Amanda Sullivan

Internet censorship: the great firewall of China

PHOTO PROVIDED PER SXG.HU

Katie Bell
OPINION REPORTER

Google, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the People's Republic of China make for an interesting trio with a debacle playing out on the international stage. The problem originated with China attacking Google's infrastructure.

"In mid-December, we detected a highly sophisticated and targeted attack on our corporate infrastructure originating from China that resulted in the theft of intellectual property from Google," Google's Senior Vice President, Corporate Development and Chief Legal Officer David Drummond said in Google's official blog.

What Google initially deemed as a security breach was soon discovered to be much more than that. Google has evidence to suggest that the main goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. Based upon the information that Google has to date, they believe that the attackers did not achieve their objective, according to Drummond. Google is also considering ceasing operations in China.

Although China has become a modernized nation in recent decades, the communist nation remains light-years behind when compared to United States in the citizen's access to information that is available at the click of a mouse.

The Chinese government has the right to restrict access and monitor the use of the Internet. I was in China in 2008 when Tibet was invaded. Tibetans posted video of what was happening on YouTube and as a result the Chinese government blocked access to the site. Liberty alumnus, Andrew Logan is currently living in China. His sister, junior Erin Logan said there are times he cannot access certain Web sites such as Facebook.

When one examines how much authority the Chinese government exercises over it is people, it is not at all surprising that the Internet itself use is censored. While Internet censorship is a strange concept to Americans, it is a harsh reality to the citizens of China.

Clinton threw down a direct challenge to Beijing's cen-

sors, pledging to help citizens here jump the Great Fire Wall that blocks access to tens of thousands of Web sites. She announced that Washington would go on "supporting the development of new tools that enable citizens to exercise their right of free expression by circumventing politically motivated censorship," and "make sure that those tools get to the people who need them," according to Truthout.org.

"Those who disrupt the free flow of information in our society or any other pose a threat to our economy, our government and our civil society," Clinton said, according to the New York Times. "Countries or individuals that engage in cyber-attacks should face consequences and international condemnation."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supports Google's position and cautioned China's rulers that their practices of censorship risked, "walling themselves off from the progress of the next century." Needless to say, her words did not please Chinese government officials.

Clinton's speech, however, "won't change people's minds," Internet affairs and U.S.-China relations reporter Kaiser Kuo said, according to truthout.org.

"As Chinese netizens watched her speech — Web cast live and linked to several Chinese blogs — many of them crowded onto chat rooms to offer divided opinions. There will always be those who chafe against censorship and those who defend the regime," Kuo said, according to truthout.org.

Clinton's statements against Internet censorship in China are noble, however they are not going to be effective against a communist regime that has been in place since 1949. It is absurd to think that by verbally criticizing the Chinese government that change will occur. The oppression the people of China face is horrendous. However, people need to realize that the Internet censorship practices of a communist government do not disappear overnight and as Americans, it is not our job to tell other nations how to govern their people.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students deserve equal electoral footing

Jenny Poore's Feb. 4 letter to the editor (in the News and Advance) underscores her concern for the integrity of local elections. I share her concern, but have a different perspective.

I think she is missing a few key variables. She claims that allowing Liberty University students to vote in local elections gives them "representation without taxation." In actuality, nothing could be further from the truth. For years, meal, lodging and sales taxes have steadily increased to generate revenue designed to come out of the students' pockets, while real estate taxes have remained stagnant to win the favor of the citizens who were allowed to vote.

Liberty also pays prohibitively high taxes in the form of fees for building permits, water and sewage use, which translates to higher tuition costs. Students who work in Virginia are subject to state income tax laws. Some even own homes and cars that are taxed locally, and others pay de facto property taxes in the form of rent.

The record should also state that Liberty's tax-free status does not extend to all Liberty-owned land parcels or to the two Liberty-owned shopping centers that have increased local property values and taxable income arising from those properties. In addition, Liberty is responsible for a deluge of visitors who bring income to local hotels and restaurants. Lynchburg also benefits from many federal and state aid programs that are determined in part by the census, which includes a sizeable population of Liberty students.

The presence of Liberty's student body benefits Lynchburg and the surrounding areas greatly, but for years they have been denied a say in local politics — a fact that has enabled the city to take advantage of these students while placating voting citizens. The new laws (championed by President Barack Obama and the ACLU) simply place Liberty students on even footing with the rest of Lynchburg's citizens, and with other universities across the nation.

Liberty University students deserve to be heard and counted. The only thing that would "wreak havoc on the legitimacy of our local electoral system" (as Ms. Poore suggests) is if this group of Lynchburg residents were denied their right to vote.

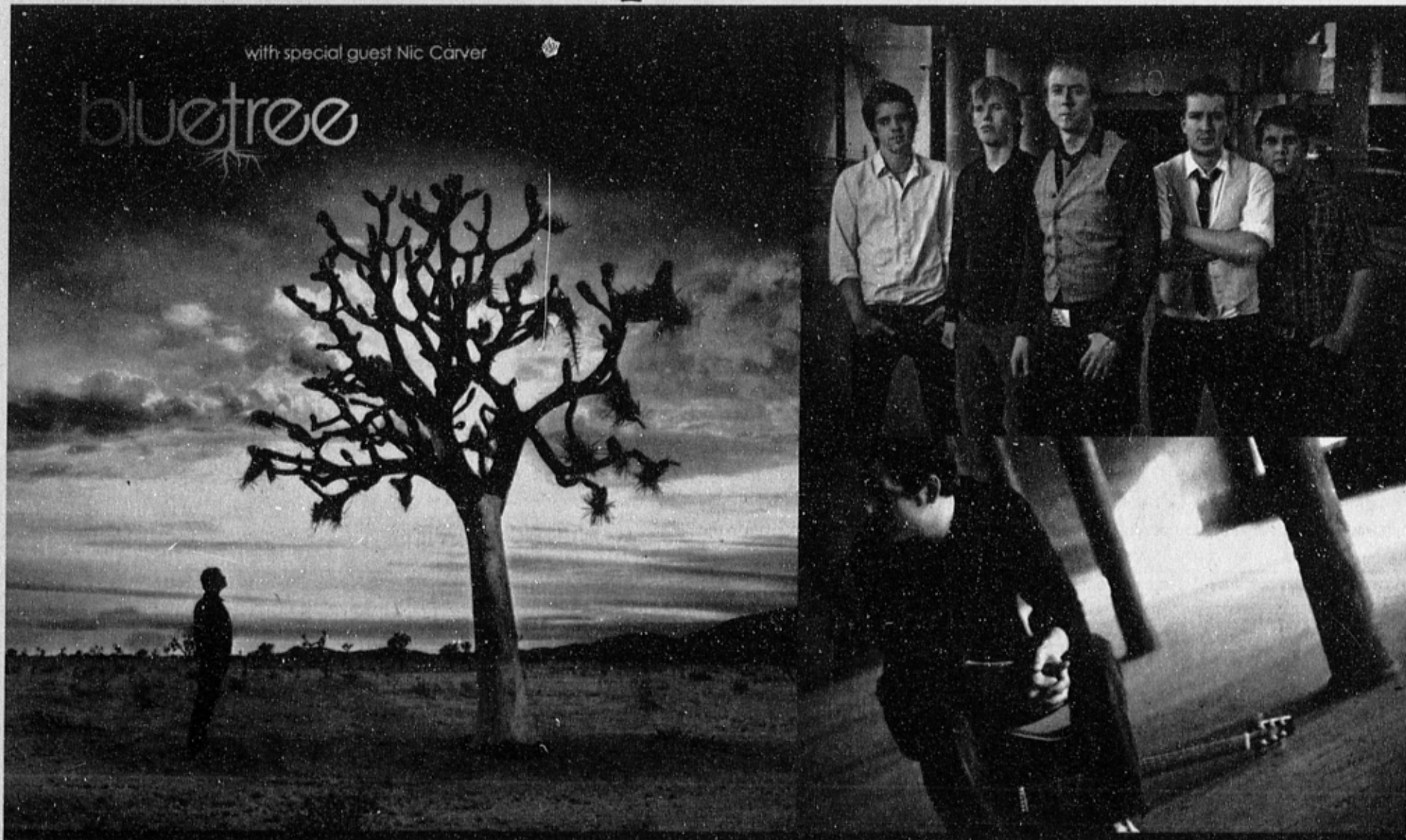
Joseph Weigand
LYNCHBURG

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student activities presents

with special guest Nic Carver

bluetree

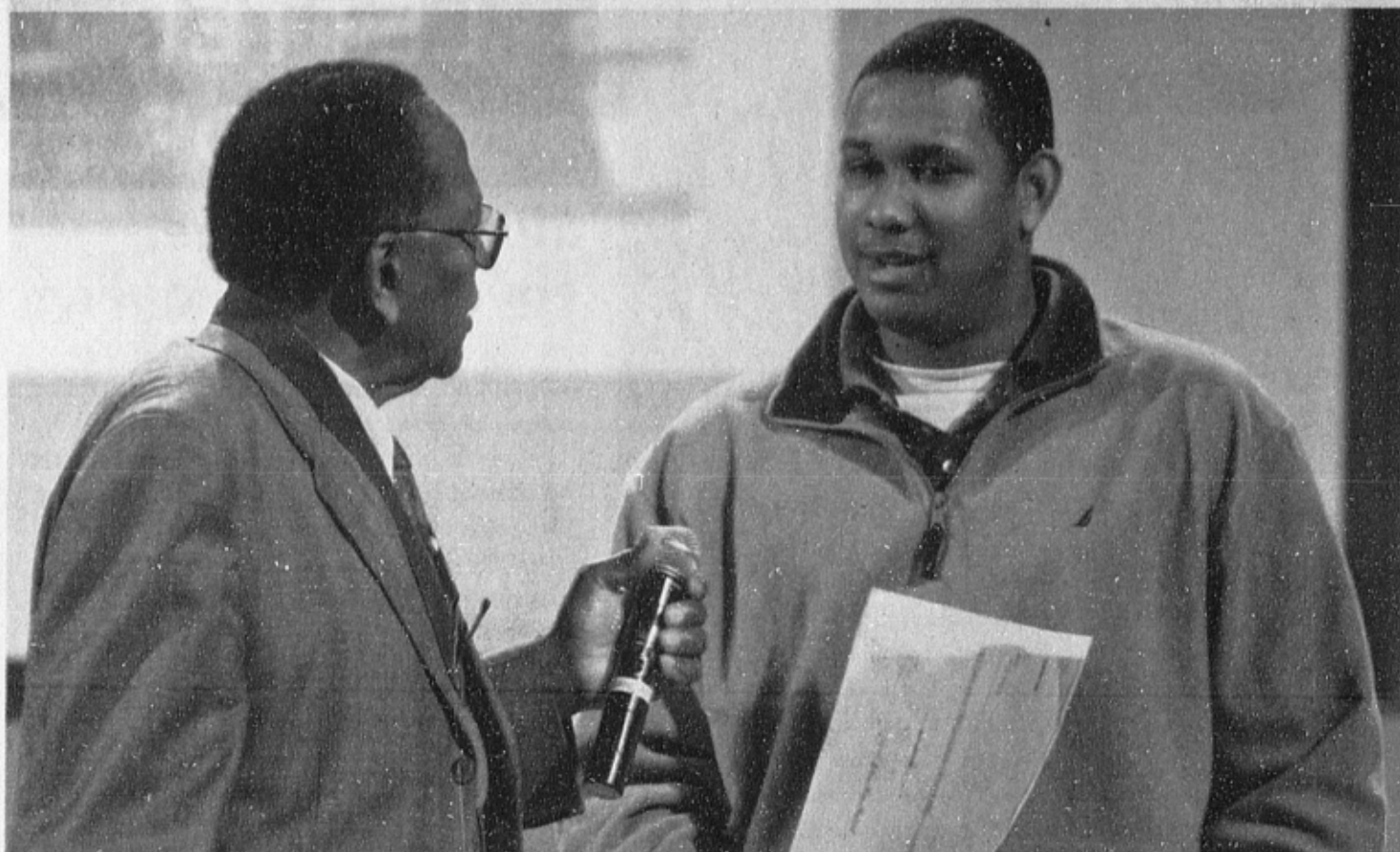


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LU
Student
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STUDENTS ON STRIKE — John Stokes of Brown v. Board of Education spoke to students during Liberty's Black History Month events

John Stokes speaks to students

Melinda Zosh
NEWS EDITOR

More than 55 years have passed since the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education*, but the decision is still fresh in John Stokes' mind.

On April 23, 1951, Stokes marched in strike at his high school in Virginia for a chance at better education. His memoir "Students on Strike" details his involvement in the case.

Stokes stayed calm and cool when he marched on strike, according to the Director of Spiritual Life for the football team Ed Gomes.

"He could have said 'let's make the issue the color of one's skin,'" Gomes said. "What he said very emphatically is the best thing that one can do to advance what is right is you do not do it with guns or violence, you do it with your brain."

Stokes spoke to Liberty University students and the public Feb. 13 at the Towns Alumni Hall. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Multi-cultural Enrichment (Center4ME), the LU

Multicultural Advisory Board and Barnes & Noble, according to Director of Center4ME Melany Pearl.

Center4ME invites different speakers every year as part of its Black History Month celebration, according to Pearl. The group invited Stokes to recognize the progress of the American educational system.

"This was a unique opportunity to have a living legend visit the campus and tell his life's experiences and how Liberty University students are benefiting from his actions in the 1950s," Pearl said.

Stokes demonstrated the Jim Crow laws of the 1950s. In one demonstration, 20 volunteers were given yellow and pink tickets.

Everyone with a yellow ticket sat at the back of a group of chairs, which represented bus seating in the 1950s. People could only sit next to someone who had the same colored ticket. If there was an empty seat, people with yellow tickets could not sit next to people with pink tickets.

"He further explained that if the

bus was crowded, any black person that had to stand also had to secure verbal permission to stand next to a seated white person," Pearl said.

Gomes closed by saying that he was most impressed with the way that Stokes handled himself with a Christ-like attitude. Stokes' mother brought him and her other children to TRBC, and this shaped Stokes' approach during the Civil Rights Movement, Gomes said.

"He did not waiver on his commitment God. He can use things that seem bad and allow good to come out of something bad," Gomes said. "My challenge to all of us is to let our light so shine that God will use us as instruments of righteousness here at Liberty."

All heritage celebrations including Hispanic Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month and Black History Month are an "augment to what is recorded in general history books," Pearl said.

"Historically, the accomplishments and contributions of under-represented populations have been omitted from the American story," Pearl said. "Center4ME is inten-

tional about bringing these stories forward."

Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Hine introduced Stokes at the start of the event and expressed his hope for what the students would take away from it.

"Hearing someone give an account of events they actually lived through had so much more meaning than just reading facts from a history book," Hine said. "His presentation was passionate because he lived the events about which he spoke."

The enrollment of minorities has increased dramatically since Gomes first came to Liberty as a student in 1974.

"Here at Liberty, we are living out Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream," Gomes said. "At Liberty, the number of minorities continues to grow, and it is a testimony to the steps that are being taken to rewrite history."

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International students give back by volunteering

Crystal Heavner
NEWS REPORTER

Liberty University held its first International Student activity of the spring 2010 semester on Sunday, Jan. 31 at the LaHaye Ice Center.

The winter World-Wide Welcome was an opportunity for Liberty University and Lynchburg ministries to introduce incoming international students to their returning peers.

The event made incoming students aware of the support available to them during their time in Lynchburg. International from both Lynchburg College and Sweet Briar College were invited to join in the festivities.

Several other events for international students will be held throughout the semester. Two major events will occur during Liberty's Missions Emphasis Week (MEW). The Parade of Nations will take place Feb. 15 and serve as an opening ceremony for the week's proceedings.

During convocation, students from around the world will carry their nations' flags. More than 100 students will participate in this event, according to the International Student Center Coordinator and Office Manager Debbie Webb.

The second event of the week is the Taste of Nations, on Feb. 17 after campus church in the Schilling Center.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for different parts of the world to meet," Foreign Student Advisor Linda Barkley said.

International students prepare and serve dishes from 20 of their native countries and offer a taste of their home to the Lynchburg community. It is also a chance for Liberty students to be introduced to "the wealth of cultural diversity around them every day," Webb said.

The Taste of the Nations has drawn between 900 and 1500 participants in past years. The event requires 130 people to help with the serving and assistance to the students. Family and Consumer Science students work with the international students to help them cook and in the process learn unusual and culturally diverse recipes. All students are encouraged to volunteer for this and other international student events.

One way any student can get involved is to volunteer as an ambassador to assist new international students during international student orientation at the beginning of each semester. Approximately 10 volunteers are needed for each semester, according to International Student Office student assistant Sui Ngun.

Serving as an ambassador earns Christian Community service hours and early housing is provided for no charge. The duties of these volunteers include helping with registration tables, planning events and setting up and tearing down events setups and assisting new international students adjust to their new environments.

The International Student Office "prefers those (volunteers) who really want to learn about other cultures," Ngun said. Most of these volunteers are returning international students who wish to share with new students the positive experience they received over their first few days at Liberty.

Domestic students are also welcome volunteers. According to Webb, the International student body is rapidly growing, and it has expanded from 250 students in 2003 to more than 900 this year. These events and the chance to volunteer for the International Student Office allow students to take advantage of the opportunity to live in a wealth of cultural diversity.

Students interesting in volunteering can contact Debbie Webb or Sui Ngun at (434)-592-4119.

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Wong wins national recognition

By Melinda Zosh
NEWS EDITOR

Senior advertising major Christopher Wong was one of 49 students honored at the American Advertising Federation's (AAF) 2010 Most Promising Students Program at the New York Athletic Club in New York City Feb. 2-4.

The program is the "premier advertising industry award program to recognize and recruit outstanding minority college graduates in advertising, marketing and media communications," according to aaf.org.

Advertising professor Angela Widgeon nominated Wong for the program in the fall, because she felt that he had a strong chance to win, she said.

"I was already impressed with him, but he also had the grades to support a nomination," Widgeon said. "I knew Chris was the right (nomination), because he gives God the glory for this honor."

AAF Mosaic, the subdivision of AAF that organizes and the Most Promising Students Program asks faculty advisors of AAF college chapters to nominate students who would make "great professionals," Widgeon said.

Wong's background in broadcasting encouraged Widgeon decision to nominate him, because his audio and video experience "made him a strong candidate to have multiple skill sets." The new trend in advertising is integrated marketing, background in multiple areas of communications, according to Widgeon.

The AAF requires that the students be of African, Asian, Latino, Native American or Pacific Islander descent and hold a minimum GPA of

3.2 overall and 3.22 in their majors. The students must also graduate within the 2010 calendar year and be nominated through an AAF-affiliated college chapter, according to the AAF Web site.

Wong met the group's GPA requirements, but he was surprised that the recruiters did not ask about his grades. They wanted to know more about his real world work experience, he said.

"None of the companies asked 'How are you doing in your classes?'" Wong said. "You go to college to get good grades, but I learned that it is not so much how you (perform) in class, it is more about what you do."

Wong, who interned at ABC-13 in the commercial production department, emphasized his work experience to recruiters of two global business companies, General Mills and Interpublic Group (IPG).

Both the companies interviewed Wong for a job starting after graduation in May. IPG offers a two-year paid internship with four different companies. Many people get hired after the internship, and Wong would like to be one of them, he said.

Wong was surprised by what kind of experience most of the companies were seeking—business skills. He wants to be on the creative end of advertising, but only three out of 30 companies were seeking creative workers.

"GM was looking for people with experience in promotional marketing, which combines business, public relations and advertising into one thing," Wong said.

When he visited globally renown advertising

agency McCann-Erickson, Wong learned an important lesson about the future of advertising and marketing, he said.

"The new things that companies are doing with social media kind of blew my mind," Wong said. "A lot of companies are doing business on Facebook."

Wong has changed his goals since his trip to New York City. He plans to learn more about social media and the business aspect of advertising.

"I want to get my foot in the door, and then I can do (the job) I want when I get in," Wong said. "When I was talking to recruiters, I tailored my perspective to their company, because I want to work for them."

Wong plans to keep in contact with the recruiters he met two weeks ago.

"The most important thing in the business world is networking," Wong said. "Be involved with as many things as possible to get more experience. Send e-mails and keep in contact."

Widgeon said that Wong's participation in the program is an honor for Liberty University, because it is rare for a college student to interview with top advertising companies with the possibility of attaining an entry level job after graduation.

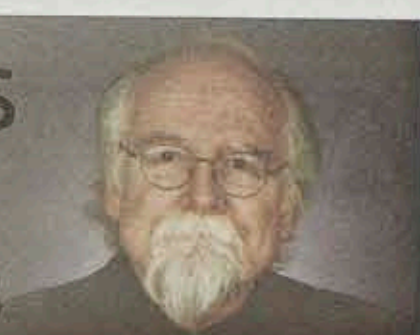
"The number one reason that (Wong) received this honor was his testimony," Widgeon said. "He was so humbled that God would allow him to be in this way and that God had bigger plans for him."

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An inside look at
running sensation
Sam Chelanga
B2

DR. GRAVES
PUBLISHES
BOOK
B8



LIBERTY SPORTS

February 16, 2010 • liberty.edu/champion

SPORTS BRIEFS

EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS

A record-setting 108,713 fans packed the new Dallas Cowboys stadium on Sunday night to view the 2010 NBA All-Star game.

The game, featuring the best players from the Eastern and Western Conferences, was won by the East by a final score of 141-139. Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade racked up MVP honors with his 28 points, 11 assists, six rebounds and five steals. Denver Nuggets swingman Carmelo Anthony led the way for the West in the losing effort, notching a double-double with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

OLYMPIC TRAGEDY

Twenty-one-year-old Republic of Georgia luger Nodar Kumaritashvili died during a practice run before the start of the Olympic games in Vancouver on Friday.

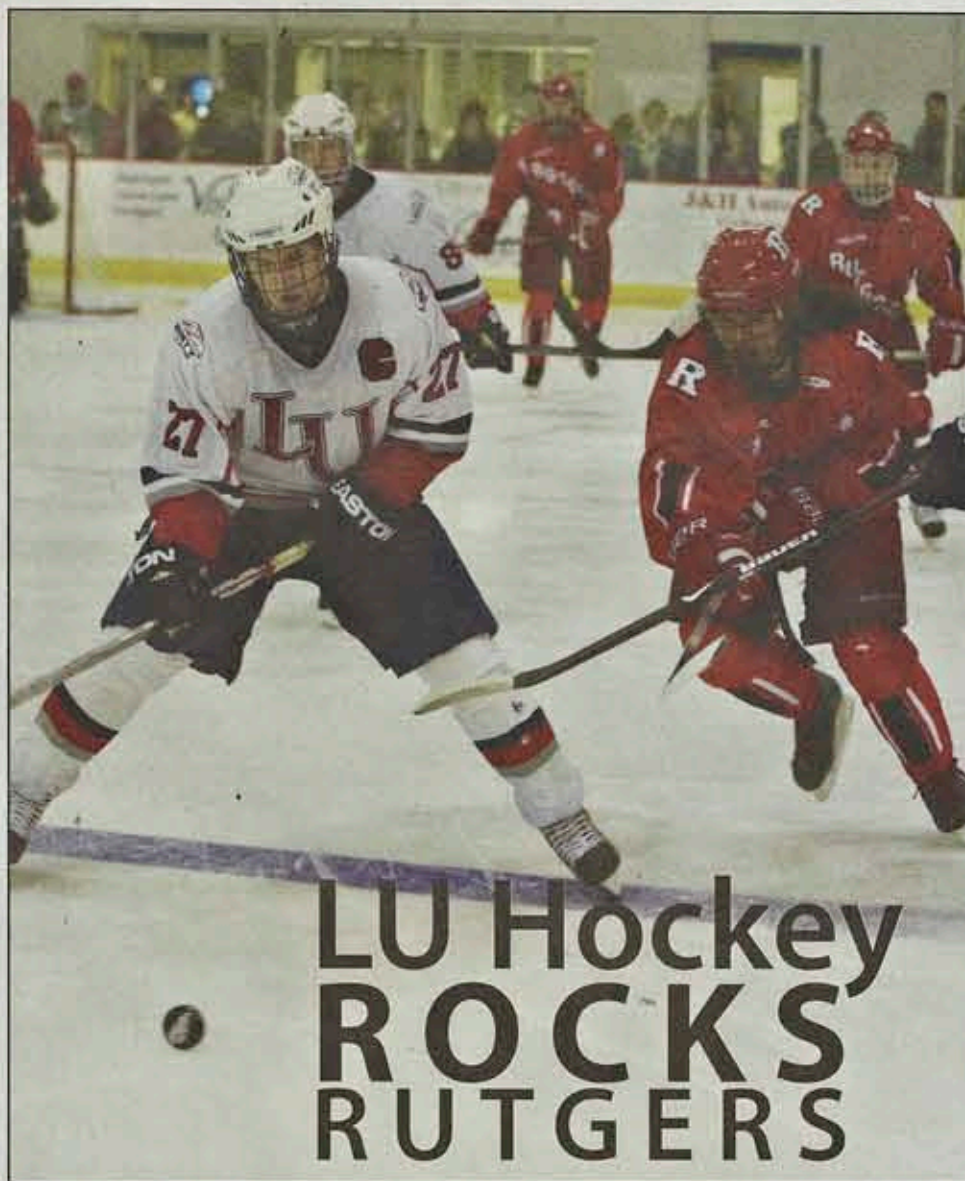
Kumaritashvili was traveling nearly 90 mph when he lost control around a turn and was flung over the wall and struck a steel pole. Olympic officials shortened the track considerably after the accident in an attempt to reduce the speed of sleds.

Friday night's opening ceremony was dedicated in Kumaritashvili's honor.

"HOLE" Y VICTORY

Jamie McMurray secured his place in NASCAR history on Sunday afternoon, winning the Daytona 500 in dramatic fashion by holding off a surging Dale Earnhardt Jr. on the final lap.

The race took over six hours to finish, due largely in part to two delays that lasted a combined 2 hours and 26 minutes in order to fix a pothole that formed on the track.



LU Hockey ROCKS RUTGERS

ELI OVERBEY

Ryan Walter
SPORTS REPORTER

The Flames hockey squad continued its late season dominance with a win over the Rutgers Ice Knights Saturday night. Liberty came out flying, after being tied 2-2 in the first, with six consecutive goals for an 8-2 victory. It was both a decisive and important game as the national tournament looms closer.

"We improved period by period with overall strong play," Assistant Captain Joe Smith said. "We knew that the results of the game could seriously affect our national ranking and we needed to win big in order to have a chance at moving up the standings."

The Flames looked sharp, notching two goals early in the first period to go ahead. Captain Zac Bauman scored the first with an impressive individual effort.

"I just came out of the (penalty) box, knocked it out of the guys stick and just threw it on net," Bauman said. "The goalie bobbled it, and I knocked it in."

Sophomore Greg Jensen followed up Bauman's effort with a hard-earned goal of his own. The Flames looked like they would be on their way to another dominant victory, however, Rutgers had other intentions. The Ice Knights were able to convert two quick goals at the end of the first to even the score at two.

"(We) lacked intensity. We wanted to come out hitting and we just didn't do our jobs," assistant coach Mike Binnie said. "Thankfully (goalie Matt Pederson) was steady throughout the whole game."

The Liberty crew came out looking like a new team in the second period, scoring three unanswered goals to take a commanding lead. Senior Ryan Walter converted the third and eventual game winner, batting home a rebound off of senior Cory Rice's initial shot. A goal from junior Jonathon Chung and a nifty tally from freshman Brent Boschman kept the Rutgers squad on their heels. The Ice Knights would not be able to recover.

See HOCKEY on A4

Liberty Track & Field Competes at Home, and in Arkansas

Daniel Martinez
SPORTS REPORTER

It is not often that you will see a team of male pole-vaulters run a 4-by-400 relay in a competitive meet.

Yet that very spectacle was on display Friday night in Liberty University's Tolsma Indoor Track Center, in the waning minutes of the Liberty Quad. It was part of the track and field team's way at celebrating the last meet before the Big South Conference Championship, which is two weeks away.

And so, as most spectators and visiting athletes and coaches trickled out of the gym and the clock ticked past 9 p.m., Liberty pole-vaulters, runners, hurdlers and jumpers stood together, male and female alike, cheering and clapping for four guys who really had no business running and passing batons.

"Today was great for team unity," sophomore runner and hurdler Melanie Sims said.

Between the quad meet and the weekend's Tyson Invitational meet in Fayetteville, Ark. — which a handful of athletes attended — it was, indeed, a great weekend for the team.

Redshirt junior Sam Chelanga punched his ticket to the NCAA Indoor National Championships in Arkansas' Randal Tyson Track Center March 12, chugging 5,000 meters in 13:44, toasting the field by more than seven seconds.

"I was happy," Coach Brant Tolsma said of the effort. "All we wanted was an automatic qualifier (for Nationals) and he got it."

He also got the NCAA's fastest 5K this season.

Following in Sam's footsteps were redshirt junior Evans Kigen, who finished seventh in 14:08, and senior Josh Edmonds, who notched a 14:26, the three best times for Big South Conference competitors.

See TRACK on A4



DEVON'S DOUBLE-DOUBLE — Devon Brown scored 13 points and grabbed 13 rebounds against Gardner-Webb last Monday.

Lady Flames fall to Gardner-Webb as Bulldogs capture first place

Chris McNair
SPORTS REPORTER

In a battle for Big South supremacy, the Lady Flames basketball team took on Big South co-leader Gardner-Webb last Monday night at the Vines Center. Late game heroics from Gardner-Webb junior Dominique Hudson gave the Bulldogs a thrilling come-from-behind victory, 59-56, snapping Liberty's 10-game winning streak in the process.

Things got off to a dismal start early for the Lady Flames. The Bulldogs swarming defense caused a number of shot clock violations, many of which led to Gardner-

Webb baskets.

Three-point shooting was the difference-maker for Gardner-Webb. Epps connected on 3-of-4 attempts from beyond the arc in the first half, one of which gave the Bulldogs a 25-19 advantage at the 5:04 mark. Those were the last points Gardner-Webb would put on the board in the first half, as Liberty ended the half with an 8-0 run paced by a Brown tip-in with 49 seconds remaining, giving the Flames a two-point lead going into halftime, 27-25.

Gardner-Webb shot considerably better in the first half, connecting on 47.8 percent (11-of-23) of its shots

from the field, while the Lady Flames shot just 38.5 percent (10-of-26). Liberty did have the edge from the line, though, connecting on 85.7 percent (6-of-7) from the charity stripe.

A ferocious Warley block sent the Vines Center into a roar of applause and ovation, giving the Lady Flames a huge boost of momentum going into the half.

"My focus was just defensive momentum and just to pick our defense up," Warley said.

The Lady Flames came out in the second half firing on all cylinders. They opened up in the half with six unanswered buckets, extending their

lead to 33-25 with a Rachel McLeod layup. The basket capped off a 14-0 run during a 7:37 scoreless drought by the Bulldogs.

A 9-0 run by the Bulldogs ensued, followed by an immediate 13-3 surge by Liberty. Sophomore Danika Dale accounted for six points in the surge with a momentum-boosting three-point play and a three-pointer from the left wing. Just like Warley's block before halftime, Dale's outburst sent the crowd into pandemonium.

"LU can step it up, too. I mean, we're a strong team," Dale said.

See W BASKETBALL on B4

Keeping pace with National Champion Sam Chelanga

Daniel Martinez
SPORTS REPORTER

Redshirt junior Sam Chelanga has been at Liberty University for just over a year, has made headlines, set school and national records and turned heads in Liberty's direction, all for his running prowess.

Yet there was a time — when Chelanga was in high school back in his native Kenya — when he was required to pick a sport to play. Instead of running, he chose a sport that requires excellent hand-eye coordination, tremendous speed, quick thinking and boundless athleticism — ping-pong.

"I chose it because it was easy," Chelanga said with a shrug.

Some might argue the validity of that statement, but it is not hard to picture the stringy, 5-foot-7-inch Chelanga darting back and forth at one end of a table, honing in on the little white ball and swinging his paddle with enough vigor to rival another famous runner/ping pong extraordinaire — Forrest Gump. But that would be wrong.

"I wasn't even playing," Chelanga confessed. "When the teacher came, I would just try to act like I was playing."

It was an unassuming start for an exceptional athlete, who was born in a 500-person village in Nairobi, the youngest in a family of nine. Like any other kid, Chelanga went to school, attended Sunday School and looked up to his older siblings. When he was 12, his family moved to a new farm in Kabarak, Kenya. By this time, Chelanga had an older brother, Joshua Chelanga, who was competing in, and winning, marathons all over the world.

Chelanga did not start running long distances regularly until 2004, and, in 2006, he started running competitively. That was the same year he came to the United States. That year, running for New Jersey university Farleigh Dickinson, he met a successful long-distance runner named Josh McDougal.

McDougal, a graduate of Liberty in 2008 who still owns school records for the outdoor 5,000-meter, the indoor 3,000-meter and the outdoor mile, met Chelanga at the 2007 IC4A in Boston, where the two, and others, were qualifying for nationals. They hit it off right away.

"I like the different perspective he has, coming from Kenya," McDougal said. "When we first met, we trained together every day."

Legend has it, at the IC4A, the two runners got to talking, and Chelanga confided in McDougal.

"He wasn't happy where he was," Liberty Cross Country coach Brant Tolsma remembers. "(He said) he wanted to move, and Josh said 'You ought to contact my coach.'"

Once McDougal introduced them, Tolsma said the potential was clear: "We wanted that team (Chelanga and McDougal, both running for Liberty) at nationals, but the Lord had another plan."

Farleigh Dickinson was reluctant to release Chelanga, and, as such, even after he officially came to Liberty, Chelanga couldn't run his first year, McDougal's senior year.

On Nov. 22, 2009, Chelanga found himself in a pack of runners — including seven Olympians — who thundered their way across the fields of the LaVern Gibson 10K course in Terra Haute, Indiana. But Chelanga was not in the lead.

"It was a really great field," Tolsma said of that group of runners — the group competing for the NCAA Division I National Cross Country Championship. "We weren't looking for a win. We were just looking to see how long he could keep up the pace."

But something Tolsma knows now — that he may have known then — was that, "Chelanga doesn't like to lose."

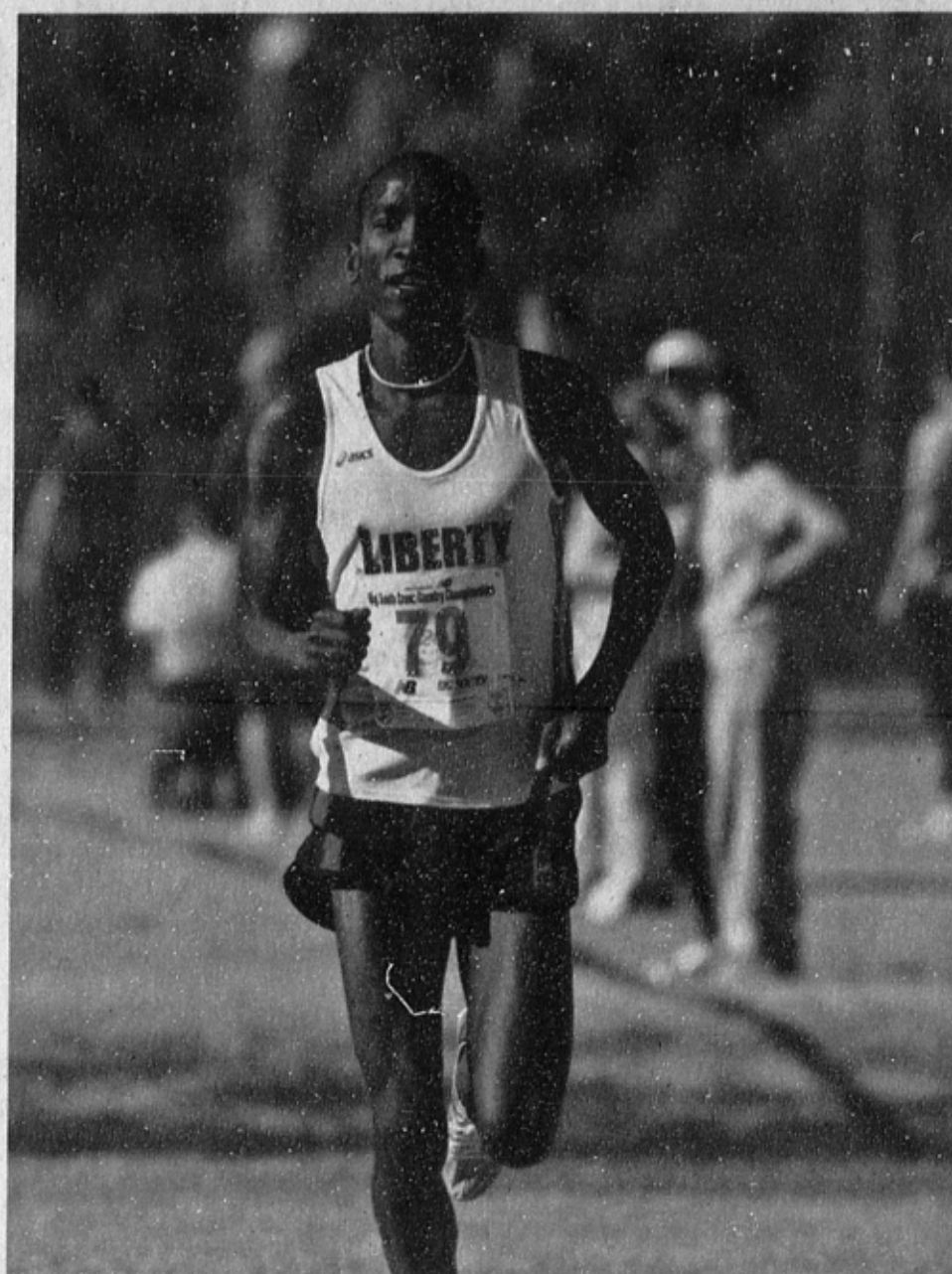
According to Tolsma, Chelanga held the pace, impressively remaining in seventh or eighth place, refusing to slip into obscurity, refusing to fall behind. He also failed to tire out, and, soon, he was in fourth place. Then one of the other men in the pack broke away and started running up ahead, and Chelanga went with him.

"With three laps to go, he left that guy," Tolsma said. "And I was like, 'Whoa.'"

As excited as Chelanga looks in the pictures taken at race's end — raising both fists in triumph, his Liberty University colors on full display — that excitement was about finishing in first place. After all, he had won a 10,000-meter event, running the nearly six mile course faster than his competitors — he got to break the tape.

"When I was done, I was told I broke the NCAA record," Chelanga said.

His time? 28:41.3. The size of his record: 22 seconds better than the previous course mark. His margin of victory over runner-up David McNeil of Northern Arizona: 25 seconds.



LES SCHOFER

"Far and away his best race," McDougal said.

While Chelanga is an extraordinary athlete, who has accomplished extraordinary things (and his collegiate record time on the Terra Haute 10K course is certainly not the only one of those), he has elements of normalcy. He does not live and breathe celebrity. He listens to soft rock, pop, hip-hop and Christian music. He's a government major with a minor in criminal justice. He has an aunt who lives in the States but has not seen the rest of his family since summer.

"He's a really relaxed, laid-back, humble guy," Tolsma said. "He's not all about athletics, and he's not all about himself."

"He has super funny stories," McDougal said.

Of course, there are some extraordinary things about Chelanga. During indoor track season, he runs anywhere from 70-80 miles a week, and he considers that a "low" number. During outdoor season, it is more like 100 miles a week. Chelanga loves the traveling and competition of meets. To Chelanga, "the bigger the meet, the more fun."

He also believes his great running ability is a gift from God.

"You can't come from nowhere to be good like I am," he said.

The next time he has a race, Chelanga will

throw on his Liberty colors, stretch out, observe his competition, then, when it is time, break into what Tolsma calls his "unique, very light and flowing" stride. And he will probably keep pace with the runners, because, of course, he hates to lose.

But between now and then, Chelanga will most likely be seen chatting with friends, poring over his books, attending class and going to church.

"(He's) just the nice kind of guy that you'd like to have around, even if he didn't run fast," Tolsma said.

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"He's a really relaxed, laid-back, humble guy."
— Brant Tolsma

Flames pick up split, ready for Radford

Axel Cerny
SPORTS REPORTER

If you are looking for a good definition of grit, it would be worth your while to come to the Vines Center on Tuesday night and watch the Liberty Flames men's basketball team play host to the Radford Highlanders.

In fact, head coach Dale Layer is asking you to come show your support. After Saturday evening's win against Gardner-Webb, Layer said on the Flames Sports Network's radio post-game show, "They're (Gardner-Webb) bigger than us, they're more experienced than us, they're stronger than us. We're going to have to play a perfect game. We'd love to have a great crowd on Tuesday night in hopes of upsetting them again."

This Flames team is, no doubt, less experienced than Liberty teams of the last few years, but what they lack in experience, they have certainly learned to make up for in effort. This week's two games on the road in North Carolina exemplified just what the Liberty men are all about under new head coach Layer. They are young, at times over-matched, but gritty as can be.

Playing on the road in college basketball is recognized as one of the toughest environments in college sports, but the Flames were ready to fight this past week as they nearly stole a game from the UNC-Asheville Bulls

before knocking off Gardner Webb, 68-57, in Boiling Springs, N.C. to end the week-end road trip.

The first North Carolina matchup for Liberty last week came against a much more experienced UNC-Asheville team. After losing the first showdown between the two teams on Jan. 14 in a close one at the Vines Center, 74-70, the Flames were hoping to return the favor by beating the Bulldogs on their home court. However, Liberty dropped another extremely close game, 75-72.

"Take away the first eight minutes and 15-20 seconds, I thought we outplayed them," Layer said on the Flames Sports Network's radio post-game show.

With 11:30 left in the first half, the Flames found themselves down 18-8.

Senior Kyle Ohman, playing in his first game since he went down with a wrist injury on Jan. 16, was able to keep things from getting out of hand in the first half by going on a seven-point scoring outburst before the end of the first half to cut the Asheville lead to 37-25 going into the locker room.

Using some home court momentum to start the second half, the Bulldogs stretched out their lead to 16, but the Flames chipped away at that deficit all the way to the end of regulation. With 4:07 left in the contest, freshman Evan Gordon knocked down three of his

game-high 16 points to cut the lead to 66-64.

"I don't think we were aggressive early, but we sure were late, especially in a hostile environment," Layer said.

The final four minutes were a dogfight, and in the closing seconds, Jeremy Anderson got a good look from beyond the arc to send it into overtime, but missed, as the Flames fell 75-72.

"I was extremely proud of our team. It was a really good college basketball game, but unfortunately we came up a little bit short," Layer said.

With just a day to recuperate and prepare for Gardner-Webb, the Flames took the three-hour trip west to Boiling Springs, where they would square off in the Paul Porter Arena on Saturday.

Though the Running Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb have posted an unimpressive 7-17 record on the season, Layer said, "There's no easy win anywhere on the road in college basketball."

Liberty seemed to ignore the unfamiliar environment to start out the contest as they jumped out to a 12-5 lead in the first five minutes. Gardner-Webb battled back, though, taking a lead of their own, 16-14, with 10 minutes remaining in the first half. The rest of the half went back and forth until the first half horn, which found the Running Bulldogs ahead 31-28.

The second half was highlighted by outstanding guard play from Anderson and Gordon, who both finished the game with 17 points. Anderson, in particular, hit timely three-pointer after three-pointer in the second period. With 8:03 left to go in the contest, Liberty was still down 56-50, but refusing to roll over on the road. The Flames went on a 19-5 run to close out the game to pick up the win, 69-61.

Ohman contributed some important minutes for the Flames in his second game back, going 4-of-8 from the field, finishing with 12 points.

The win moves Liberty to 13-13 on the season, with an 8-6 record in the Big South. Gardner Webb fell to 7-18 and 4-11 in conference play. The Flames will play host to the third place in team in the Big South when Radford comes to town Tuesday night. You can bet that Layer will be looking up to the stands for some support for this Liberty Flames team that has been giving everything they have to make a late season run heading into the Big South Tournament in March.

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EDITORIAL

Tackling Tebow criticism

Nathan Brown
SPORTS REPORTER

Warm. Inspiring. Touching. A mother rejoicing for a life that she was blessed with. Yes. But domestic violence? No.

In a recent Super Bowl ad, Pam Tebow spoke lovingly of her son, the more famous Tebow — Tim, the “miracle baby” — showing baby pictures as she recounted him “almost not making it into this world,” referencing her difficult pregnancy with Tim Tebow.

The commercial then carried true to the Super Bowl placement and Tim Tebow’s chosen craft, as Tim tackled his mom. Viewers were expected to laugh and in a motherly “I’m-not-putting-up-with-rough-housing-on-national-TV” tone, Pam Tebow scolded her son and posed with him for the closing shot.

The National Organization for Women (NOW), a pro-abortion faction, has condemned the ad, not for its opposing “pro-life” stance, or its directive to the Focus on the Family Web site in which Tebow recounts in more detail his story, but rather purports that the commercial supports domestic abuse.

“I am blown away at the celebration of the violence against women in it,” NOW president Terry O’Neill told the Los Angeles Times.

But is this response a pro-abortion special interest group’s attempt to taint a commercial that has been largely viewed as an exciting step for pro-life supporters, or is the response a genuine complaint?

Mary Knight, a mother of seven, has a similar story to Pam Tebow’s. While pregnant with her third child, Knight was exposed to cytomegalovirus (CMV) early in her pregnancy.

CMV in pregnancy devastates embryos and fetuses, usually leaving them multi-handicapped, deformed, deaf and

blind. The earlier in the pregnancy a mother and child are exposed, the more dangerous it is for the baby. Knight was exposed to CMV in the first week of her pregnancy while working at United Cerebral Palsy hospital in Houston.

Enduring criticism by the medical community, her friends, family and even her husband, Knight went through with her pregnancy.

“I was told I would be giving birth to a handicapped child. I worked in the medical community and the medical community promoted abortion and strongly opposed my morals. I was told that (the pregnancy) would be tough for me and be tough for the baby and I was told (the abortion) would be therapeutic. I said no. I wouldn’t even consider it. I refused,” Knight said.

Knight was at home watching the Super Bowl with her family, cheering “Who Dat,” and “Go Saints,” and sharing stories about growing up in New Orleans, when the Focus on the Family ad played. She loved it.

Pam Tebow’s story was her story. Pam Tebow’s fight for her son despite criticism was the epitome of Knight’s fight for her own son.

“I’m sure that people told her as well that she was making the wrong decision. No one understood why she was going through it, and they didn’t understand why I went through it.”

Naturally then, when attacks from NOW about the “celebration of violence against women,” were hurled at the ad, Knight was upset.

“For them to make a comment about it promoting abuse towards women demonstrates just how uninformed they are about domestic violence. There was nothing in that commercial that suggests that women should be abused,” Knight

said.

And Knight should know. She was a victim of domestic violence herself. Knight still has scars from where her nose was broken, and the tears still flow when recalling the 10 doctor’s visits, eight times that law enforcement had to be involved, and the immeasurable terror she endured.

Even knowing she was bringing a child into a home and a world that did not want it there, she knew that she wanted that child. Ridicule, abuse and rejection could not change that. It has been said that courage is not the absence of fear, rather the recognition of something greater than your fear. For both Mary Knight and Pam Tebow, their courage prevailed over fear.

Tim Tebow understands the struggle of his own mother’s pregnancy and those with similar stories like Knight, and in a recent press conference spoke of his appreciation.

“It’s the reason I’m here. My mom is a very courageous woman. I’m very thankful for that,” he said.

Tim Tebow has his mother to thank for her determination and unwavering courage to believe in her faith, go through with her pregnancy and not have an abortion.

I have my mother to thank. Mary Knight is my mother, and without her love for her son, despite criticism and abuse, I would not have my healthy, intelligent younger brother with me today.

Focus on the Family made a bold move for the pro-life movement by sharing the Tebows’ story on national television. It would require a distinct lack of class and respect to try to detract anything from Pam Tebow’s fight for a son.

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PHOTOS PROVIDED

ACCOMPLISHMENT — Tebow finished his career with the Florida Gators as one of the most decorated college football players in NCAA history. He was part of two national championship teams, won one Heisman Trophy and was a finalist for two more.

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TRACK continued

Chelanga did not make the only big splash in Arkansas for Liberty. Running against athletes from schools from all over the nation, redshirt senior Jaime Watson broke her own Liberty and Big South records in the 800-meter, her 2:06.15 good for fourth, just behind three former national champions.

"She's been looking good, so I was expecting it," Tolsma said.

Other Liberty runners who looked good in Arkansas were redshirt senior Rebekah Ricksecker, who ran a 4:51.74 mile — just missing her personal best — good for eighth among 43 runners, and sophomore Olivia Charnuski, who lowered her Big South record-low 60-meter hurdle time to 8.7 seconds.

To Tolsma, the Liberty invasion at Arkansas was successful.

"We always enjoy getting lifetime records," he said.

Meanwhile, on the home front, Liberty athletes competing in events from the shot put to the 60-meter dash put on a show that perfectly validated junior hurdler Rachel Houseknecht when she said, "We have a phenomenal team."

Houseknecht did her part, leapfrogging the competition in the women's 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.87 seconds.

Another head-turner was junior Jacey Bailey, who rumbled to victory in all three events in which he participated. He zipped through the 60-meter dash in 6.96 seconds and, trying his hand at the 200-meter, beat his closest competitor by almost a full second with a sterling time of 22.37 seconds. Finally, Bailey ran the first leg for the baton-handling crew in the 4-by-400 and, along with freshmen Taylor Courtney and Andre Washington and junior Chris Herbst, captured first place with a 3:26.77, eight seconds ahead of their closest competitors.

The Liberty women had a strong showing on the track as well. Freshman Meghan Burggraf won the 400-meter dash with a strong 59.21, finishing just ahead of teammate Mia Aghaji, a redshirt sophomore, who ran a 1:00.72. Two other female runners found their own ways in their events. Junior Haley Neal turned on the jets in the final meters of the one-mile run to hold off a hard-charging William & Mary opponent for second place, while junior Dacia Bushman took the night's final

event, the 3,000-meter dash, with a 37-second margin of victory.

Then there were the pole-vaulters.

While the guys' teaming up to run a 4-by-400 for fun was "a great way to get everyone involved and pumped up," according to Houseknecht, they put up a strong showing in their own event, as well.

Sophomore Cody Fridgen notched a berth in the IC4A Boston meet in March by managing to fling himself 15-feet-9-inches into the air and clear the pole.

Kolby Shepherd, a junior, drew huge applause from spectators and teammates when he flopped to the mat after clearing the pole at a height of 16-feet-9-inches.

"I haven't jumped that high since I was a freshman," Shepherd said. "It was a real blessing. It felt really cool to make that."

The power vault attempt won him his third-straight Quad title.

At both North Campus and Arkansas, the Liberty track and field team had a superb weekend, and will look ahead to the conference championship with relish. The men are looking to capture their 13th-straight championship, while the women look to break a three-year stranglehold by Coastal.

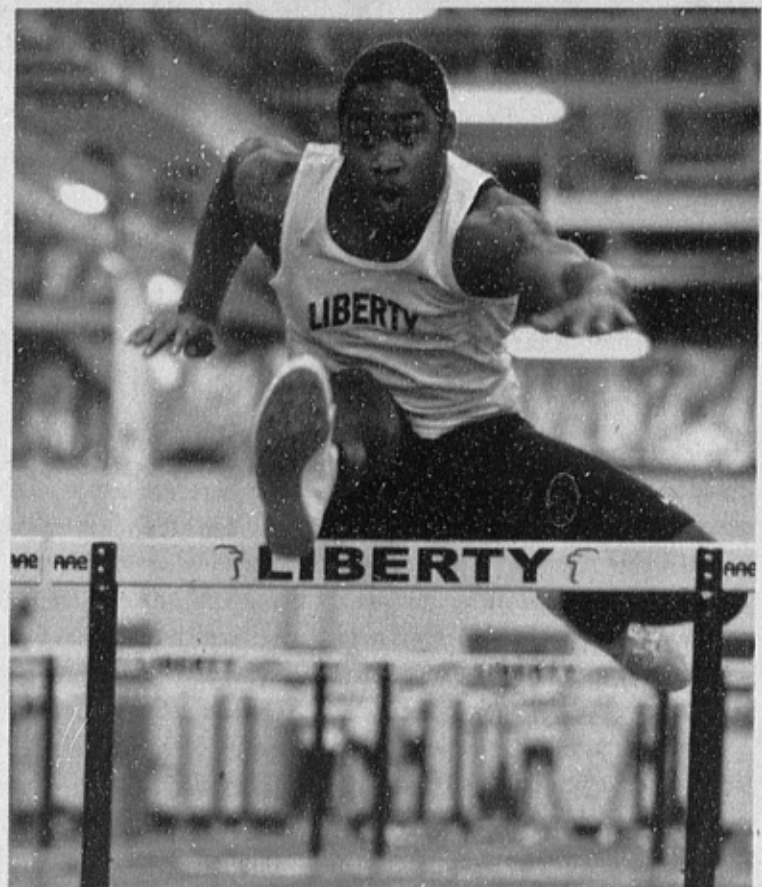
"The big part is to get ready mentally," Tolsma said of the challenge. "The keys are relax and focus. We just have to go out and do what we've been doing all year."

Contact Daniel Martinez at dpmartinez@liberty.edu.

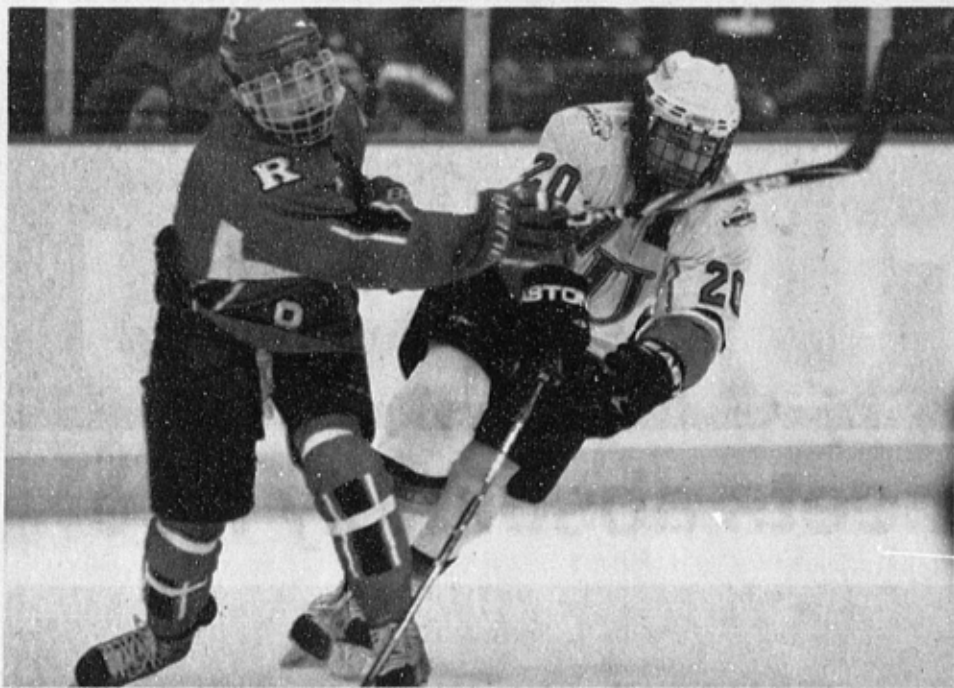


ELI OVERBEY

TOP PERFORMERS — The Flames track and field squad racked up 14 first place finishes this weekend at the Liberty Quad, highlighted by Jacey Bailey's three wins in the 60, 400 and 4x400 meter.



ELI OVERBEY



ELI OVERBEY

KNIGHT KNOCKOUT — Liberty's Dave Semenyna defends a Rutgers puck-handler in Saturday's 8-2 victory over the Ice Knights.

HOCKEY continued

"In the second I thought we really picked it up," Bauman said. "There were still a few things we had to work on but I thought we worked hard."

The third period was all Brent Boschman. He started the period off with a wrist shot that beat the goalie in the top right corner. Later he tipped in a power play shot from the point to get his third goal of the game to complete the hat-trick.

"It was on the power play, and I was just in front of the net," Boschman said. "I was just trying to get good body position, and I got a piece of it."

That was not it for Boschman as he assisted on junior Eric Reynolds goal. Reynolds got the puck and wired a shot right between the Rutgers' goalie's legs for Liberty's eighth and final goal of the game.

"I thought the third period was our best

period," sophomore Mac Bauman said. "We had more chances and we played better offensively."

The win is the last one for Liberty before the final ranking of the season. The currently sixth ranked Flames are hoping to improve their position for the National Tournament.

With only four games left in the regular season, every game will be important for gaining momentum leading up to Nationals.

With many of the top ranked teams losing this week, Liberty hopes for a generous rankings update.

Liberty will look for revenge as it takes on the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies this weekend. Liberty enters the game with two losses at Oakland earlier this season. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Contact Ryan Walter at rmwalter@liberty.edu.

W. BASKETBALL continued

The Lady Flames maintained the lead all the way down to the final seconds, until a deadly Hudson triple put the Bulldogs ahead, 57-56, with only 19 seconds remaining in regulation. After failing to score on the next possession, Liberty then had no choice but to foul, sending senior Margaret Roundtree to the line with seven seconds on the clock. Roundtree knocked down both free throws, extending the lead to three, which would prove to be the final score, 59-56. "It does come down to execution both defensively and offensively," Lady Flames head coach Carey Green said. "We didn't execute some at the end of the game. We got some shots and they didn't fall. They made shots."

The loss brought the Lady Flames record to 17-5 overall and 7-2 in conference play. Gardner-Webb improves to

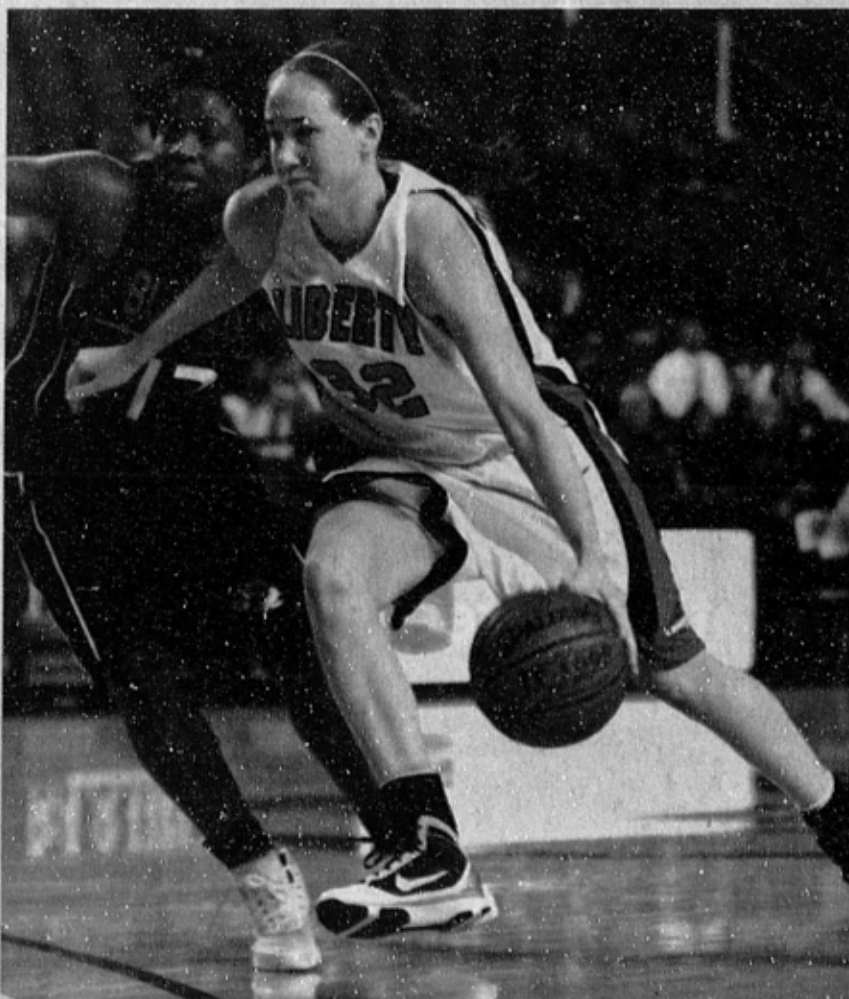
19-3 overall and 8-1 in the Big South, making them number one in the standings.

Liberty redshirt sophomore Avery Warley recorded a double-double, leading all scorers with 15 points, and pulling down 10 rebounds. Also recording a double-double for the Lady Flames was Devon Brown, who tallied 13 points and 13 boards.

Hudson led Gardner-Webb in scoring with 14 points, all of which came during the second half, followed by Courtney Epps who contributed with 13 points.

The Lady Flames will visit Winthrop Feb. 15 looking to complete a season sweep of the Eagles. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Winthrop Coliseum.

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CHRIS MABES

LOSING LATE — Rachel McLeod dribbles around a Bulldogs defender while contributing nine points and three assists in last Monday's 59-56 final minute loss to Gardner-Webb.

FLAMES BY THE NUMBERS

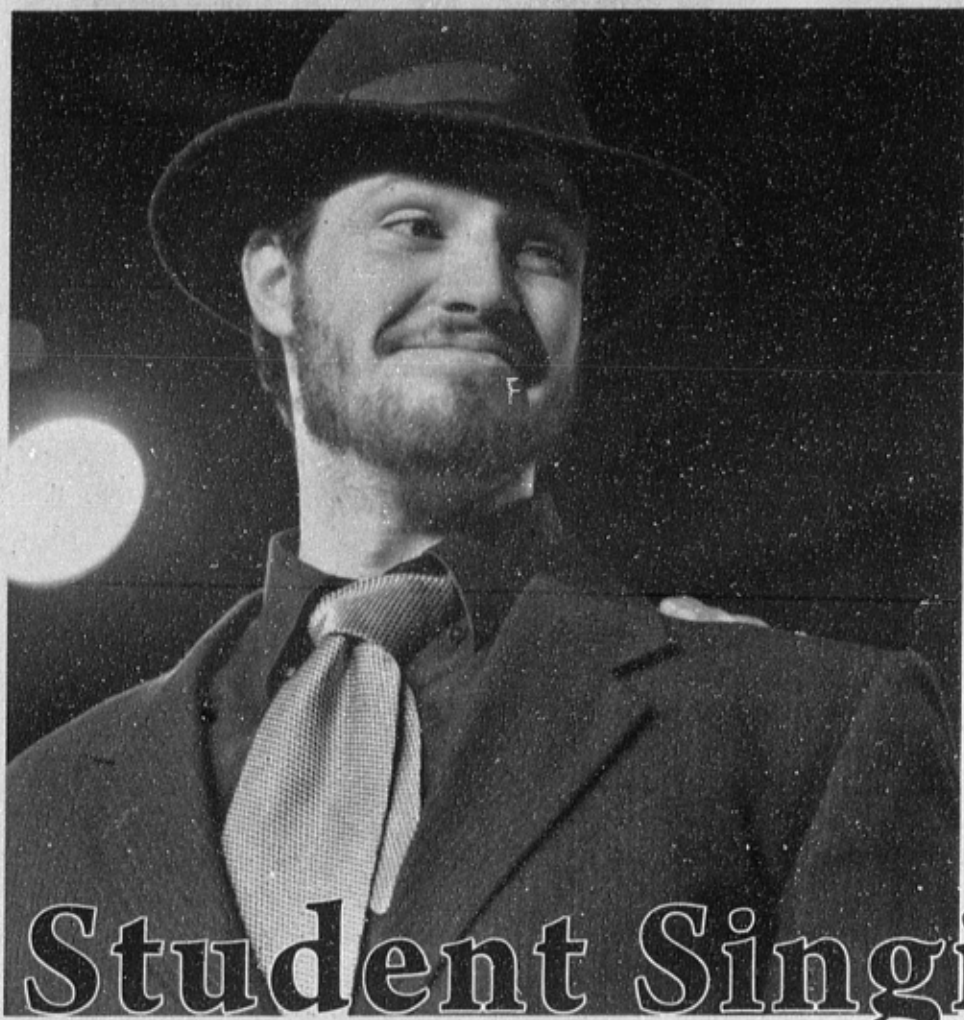
3 — Number of goals Brent Boschman scored in Liberty Hockey's 8-2 win over Rutgers.

17 — Number of points that Jeremy Anderson and Evan Gordon each scored in Liberty's 69-61 victory over Gardner-Webb on Saturday.

13:44.16 — Time it took Sam Chelanga to complete the 5000-meter (which is 3.1 miles) run at the Tyson Invitational. Chelanga finished first place by seven seconds.

PHOTOS BY ELI OVERBEY

JOHN EAST:



Student Singing Sensation

Gaetane Maurice
FEATURE REPORTER

Love for what you do and determination to succeed are key factors to success. Junior John East has a love for music that is evident to those around him.

Born and raised in Lynchburg, Va., East attended Jefferson Forest High School before coming to Liberty in fall 2007.

According to East, Liberty was not the school he originally planned to attend.

"Being from here, there is a lot of skepticism with Liberty. I went to church with a bunch of Liberty kids ... Some of them were a little over the top," East said.

East, a vocal performance major, was introduced to music at a young age. Despite the lack of a choral program throughout middle school, East began participating in the local community choir, Cantate, in fifth grade and continued for eight years.

During his senior year of high school an member of Cantate, a Liberty student, invited

him to see an opera she was in at the Liberty theatre.

"I really enjoyed it," East said.

After speaking with Music Professor and the Director of the Opera Dr. Wayne Kompelien in April of his senior year of high school, East was excited about the program.

"So I just came here, and it's been perfect," East said.

East, a bass, has been in the voice program since his freshman year. He has been in several productions such as Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II, The Magic Flute and the Marriage of Figaro by Mozart.

According to Kompelien, who has been East's voice teacher since his career began at Liberty, East has one of the finest voices he has heard at the undergraduate level.

"John is a bass. This is somewhat unique. Great basses are much more difficult to find than a great soprano," Kompelien said.

East enjoys composers such as Giuseppe Verdi, Johannes Brahms and Eric Whitacre.

"I love Verdi's Requiem ... The style and the romantic era, it's just so passionate, so much fun to sing," East said.

East placed first at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition both years and placed first in the state freshman and sophomore years, as well as third in the region his freshman year and second in the region his sophomore year.

"I have taught many extremely talented students, and John is one of the best," Kompelien said.

East's fiancé, freshman nursing major Sarah Harker, admires East's passion and love for his music.

"Something that I have respected about John is that he has honesty in his love of music," Harker said.

East and Harker have been dating for four years, and will be married in May.

"John is definitely unique. Personally, I think what sets him apart is the fact that he was meant for another era. He is certainly a

gentleman, but his interests make him stand out. Not many guys would enjoy the opera, hot tea and pocket watches. He is very turn of the century," Harker said.

After graduation, East wants to attend graduate school and later go on to sing professionally.

"I would like to professionally sing opera and teaching wouldn't be bad," East said.

East's love and dedication to his music are evident to the people around him. According to Kompelien, East's appreciation for his talent will take him far.

"Even though he has this great talent he is always striving to improve and to continue to grow as a performer," Kompelien said. "He has a bright future as a performer."

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FIGARO'S WEDDING — John East played Don Bartolo in the opera Figaro's Wedding. Above Right: Sophia Curtis and John East embrace in character in Figaro's Wedding.



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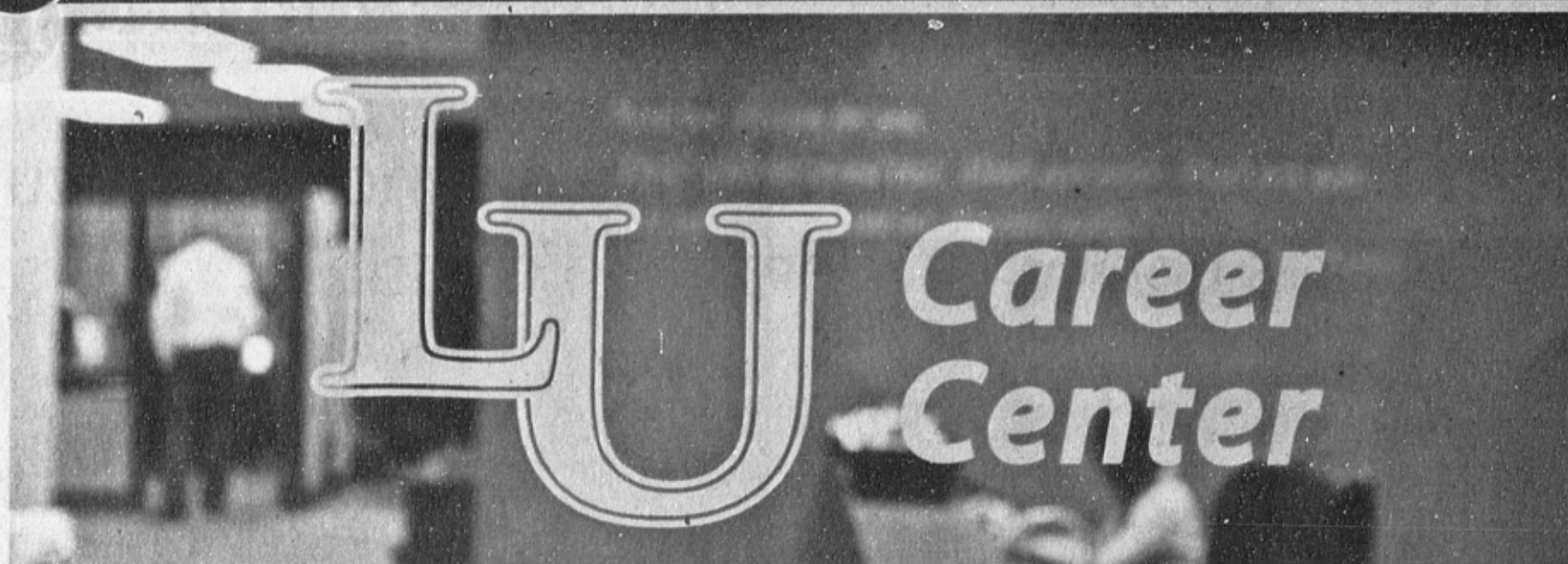
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Back up your resume with a Letter of Recommendation

Camille Smith
FEATURE REPORTER

Spring semester is the beginning of the end for senior students at Liberty. Packed full of internships and capstone classes, the last semester of a college career is often the busiest. This is why the Career Center is urging seniors to get started and beat the graduation rush.

Director of the Career Centers Carrie Barnhouse believes that the Career Center is training "Champions at Work." Barnhouse advises students that it is never too early to start the process of preparing for graduation, especially when it comes to collecting letters of recommendation for their career portfolio.

"The important part is networking," Barnhouse said. "When you leave a job or internship, ask for a letter of recommendation and ensure you're able to reproduce it for multiple reasons in the future."

Letters of recommenda-

tion are important to potential employers and for graduate school admission departments because they will back up a resume. Many graduate schools require recommendation letters as part of the application process.

"(Letters of recommendation) provide extra evidence beyond an interview that you have done what you say you have done and to what degree," Barnhouse said. "As an evaluation of your performance, skills or abilities, they can help an employer get a better understanding of who you are and what you can do."

Students are advised to seek the "three P's" when considering who can provide a letter of recommendation, according to the Career Center: professional, personal and professor.

"You want someone who's been a supervisor or manager of you in the work place," Barnhouse said. "You can offer a personal reference that speaks to your character, and

at this stage of life, a professor that you've trained under and gotten to know well could also serve as a great reference."

VCAR Professor Ronald Sumner has written many letters of recommendation for his students.

"Usually the people that ask me to write letters of recommendation are better students," Sumner said.

Preparation for obtaining a letter of recommendation begins long before senior year, according to Sumner. A student's work and performance is taken into consideration when writing the letter.

"I think that occasionally I get the student who wants me to write a letter of recommendation and I have to speak in generalities such that the astute reader would understand that I'm not really recommending," Sumner said. "More often than not, students understand how a professor will evaluate them and that tends to make them choose whom they ask

to write the letter."

There are rules of etiquette for obtaining letters of recommendation, according to Barnhouse. In order to not come across as unprofessional, a student should take the writer's time into consideration.

"Always ask if the person feels comfortable serving as a reference in writing a letter of recommendation," Barnhouse said. "Allow the person plenty of time."

The Career Center also urges students to make sure the purpose of the letter is clear. The Career Center, located on the first floor of DeMoss, offers walk-in hours for students. Services provided include career counseling, resume help, internship questions and information on the Washington semester. Walk-in hours are Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact Camille Smith at csmith3@liberty.edu.

10 TIPS FOR A GREAT RECOMMENDATION LETTER

How to get a good recommendation letter

1. Ask people who think highly of you, and of whom you think highly.
2. Ask professors with whom you have had at least two classes.
3. Respect the professor's time (or lack of time).
4. Asking for a recommendation letter is asking for a favor. Do not assume the professor will agree.
5. Give the professor at least two weeks to write the letter.
6. Do not ask in front of other people.
7. Give specifics on what you need as to whom and where the letter should be sent. Do not send the professor to a Web site for more information.
8. Remember letters for scholarships are different than letters for a job, so specify what you need.
9. Always send a thank you note and let the professor know the outcome of the recommendation.
10. Do not ask for a general letter for your portfolio.

Adopted from an article published by Public Relations Student Society of America.



UPDATE

February 2010

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Bridging the gap: a choir with a distinctly multicultural flavor is uniting students and crossing borders

Camille Smith
FEATURE REPORTER

International students at Liberty University have thousands of miles separating them from their families and friends. A different language

can be challenging, and a new culture can be a difficult adjustment. However, there is at least one thing that can remain familiar — music.

The Timothy International Ministry (TIM) student

choir was created in fall 2009 by Linda Barkley, an international student advisor and Rev. Harold L. Roberts of TIM, or as he is referred to by the international students, Pastor Rocky.

"Last summer, I believe the Lord inspired the idea of forming an international choir — a choir that could reach out to churches in the Lynchburg area," Barkley said.

She believes the choir, while giving congregates a firsthand perspective of students from other parts of the world, challenges listeners with testimonies through song.

Barkley, having traveled with the Lynchburg Baptist College Chorale when she was a student in 1972, believes the Lord has given her the gift of music. That, paired with her position at Liberty working with international students daily, inspired the idea of the choir.

"Many of these young people are the first fruits of decades of missionary work and return on investments made by churches who supported the missionaries," Barkley said.

Barkley went to Roberts with the idea of the choir, and they agreed it would be successful. There were over 45 in attendance at the first informational meeting.

"This is the first truly international choir of Liberty University," Roberts said. "We have a lot of talent."

The requirement to audition for the choir is a passport from another country. However, exceptions have been made for first generation American students. There are currently about 40 international students from 20 different countries singing in the choir, and there are still a few openings for the spring semester, according to Barkley.

"We are trying to introduce some music that they can sing in English with an international flavor to it," Roberts said. "At this time, they are learning pretty traditional choir type music, and their voices are superb."

Both Barkley and Roberts have engulfed themselves in the ministry of the international students at Liberty. As an international student advisor, Barkley's role is similar to a student advocate with the added role as a government liaison. She helps students stay in status with their passports.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity to see the world through the eyes of our international students — to be exposed to their culture and languages," Barkley said. "The international students at Liberty are so amazing."

Roberts and his wife work independently, but have been closely affiliated with Liberty since 1996. They have an adopted Micronesian daughter in addition to six daughters of their own and consider themselves an international family. Having spent more than 25 years as missionaries overseas, they were challenged to use their cross-cultural experience working with international students on college campuses.

"I've never really felt more satisfied in any other ministry than when working with these international students," Roberts said. "They are sharp, super kids, and we are really proud of them."


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Dr. Graves' book gives insight to impromptu preaching

Betsy Abraham
FEATURE REPORTER

Communication professor Dr. Michael Graves has authored a book that takes a look at the impromptu preaching styles among Quakers during the end of the 17th century.

Graves published his book, "Preaching the Inward Light," in November 2009 with Baylor University Press for a new religion and rhetoric series the publishing company was developing. The book seeks to counter the idea that Quakers were silent, theological liberals during the end of the 17th century. According to Graves, Quakers were both vocal and very conservative.

"They wouldn't have called themselves evangelical, because nobody used that term. They met on the basis of silence, but were rarely silent. They had a vibrant impromptu preaching tradition so that people would come to the meeting and if the spirit moved them, they would stand and speak," Graves said.

Graves wrote the book for a scholarly audience interested in Quaker history, the history and theory of preaching and rhetoric and the development of the study of rhetoric. The book covers four sermons in detail, including one of them by William Penn, who

founded Pennsylvania and was an important political figure at the time.

Graves, a Quaker himself, first became interested in 17th century impromptu preaching after he started reading the journal of Quaker Founder George Fox. When Graves entered a graduate program, he started research papers on the Quakers' written documents and began to wonder if any of the Quakers' oral sermons had been preserved. As he entered into his doctoral program, he decided to choose Quaker sermons as his dissertation topic.

"This book (published in Nov.) is at least three decades old, it began as my doctoral dissertation and that is still the core of the book, but all of that has been revised and expanded," Graves said.

His research, began with discovering sermons in libraries located in Philadelphia and England. Graves was not sure what to expect and was surprised to find that he found so many sermons.

"I didn't know that these sermons existed. Nobody ever mentioned them," Graves said. "The subject was not looked at and nobody ever collected the sermons or tried to study them."

During his research, he faced the obstacle of discovering the different types of terminology used by the

Quakers of the 17th century and how they listed content.

"Once I figured out the vocabulary it became easier," Graves said. "I discovered that Quaker libraries don't necessarily catalogue sermons under 'sermons' or preaching under 'preaching'. They use other terms like exhortations or similar sorts of language. If I just looked for sermons or preaching, I wouldn't find very many, so I had to find alternate names, and suddenly I found out that they were sermons."

Graves was able to find 79 sermons but then faced the difficult part — finishing the book. Other responsibilities, including teaching, often interrupted the writing process.

"It was a great expenditure of labor and time and energy. There's only so much time you can devote to something like this," Graves said.

Even though the project took more than 30 years, Graves said he is glad to have finally published the book. It was a life work that taught him a lot, he said.

"When you're dealing with this type of research, it's both intellectually stimulating but it also feeds the soul. Here are people who delivered these sermons in the 17th century and their words still speak to you today. That's the benefit to doing any kind of theologically-centered study," Graves said.

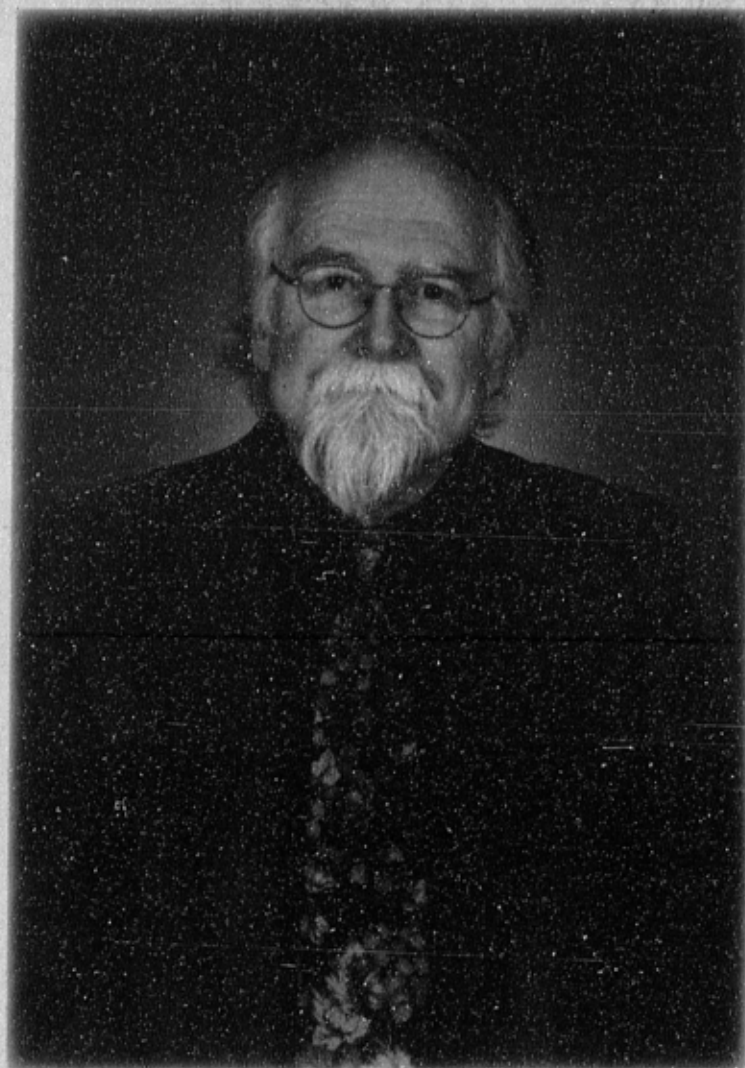


PHOTO PROVIDED

Graves hopes the book reveals a lot about Quakers and their impromptu preaching tradition.

"I hope readers have a rearrangement of their understanding about Quakers," Graves said. "Secondly, I hope that they have an appreciation for what

it took these people to decide that they weren't going to allow prepared sermons."

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Change of scenery for students on Capitol Hill

Taylor Overhultz
NEWS REPORTER

For many students at Liberty, internships are not only a requirement, but also a way to investigate career interests and clarify career goals, according to the Liberty Career Center. While many students choose to remain at Liberty and intern in the area, others have chosen the Washington Semester Fellowship as their avenue for credit.

"The Washington Semester Fellowship is an opportunity for students to live and work in Washington, D.C., during one semester and gain work experience, all while remaining a full time student," Program and Placement Coordinator Brittney Williams said.

Junior Michael Desmond was sold on the Washington Semester Fellowship after finding that all of his scholarships and financial aid still applied while in Washington.

"In my mind it was a choice between spending another semester in Lynchburg, or using the same amount of funds to gain a whole new experience in Washington D.C.," Desmond said.

Desmond is currently interning with Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison R-Texas.

"At first I could not see how my internship on Capitol Hill was going to help me in my pursuit of a career in investment banking or corporate finance," Desmond said. "However, many staff personnel working in my office have assured me that many businesses highly value candidates who know how the legal process in Washington works."

Students in the Washington Semester Fellowship live in or around the Capitol Hill area in studio-style apartments at the Washington Internship Student Housing (WISH) with other Liberty students, according to Williams.

"Students are required to abide under the Liberty Way while in D.C. They are representing Jesus Christ and Liberty University, and all rules apply as if they were living in the residence halls on campus," Williams said.

"I hear fellow interns (from other colleges) complain about how expensive their housing is, how far away their housing is, and how bad their roommates are," junior Joel Krautter said. "None of that is an issue with the Washington Semester."

Krautter is interning with a senior U.S.



PHOTOS BY MELINDA ZOSH

Washington, D.C. — (Above) The Capitol Building, (below) The Library of Congress.

senator on Capitol Hill.

"I know that the things I have learned and been involved with in just two weeks here are preparing me to do a better job wherever I go," Krautter said. "I know that by the end of the semester, this internship will be a springboard for the rest of my life in whatever career I choose, whether it is in D.C. or somewhere else."

Students receive six hours of credit for their internship and they also must register for two classes with Liberty University Online, according to Williams.

"While I am unable to work on any class assignments while I am at work, I do find ample time to complete my coursework during the evenings and some weekends," Desmond said. "However, neither my school work, nor my internship requirements have inhibited my ability to sightsee and enjoy the city."

Students must research where they would like to intern, while the coordinator assists with applications and making contact with organizations in Washington, according to Williams.

Krautter advises students to begin looking into what internships they are interested in at least one year before they plan to intern.

"With planning, you can build your resume in a way that will give you the best chance for getting the internship you want," Krautter said. "Do not leave things to others. Things work best when you are pro-active. Take initiative and do it yourself."

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