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The Liberty Champion

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY • LYNCHBURG, VA • VOL. 19, NO. 03

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2001

INSIDE

► **REMEMBRANCE:** Read students prayers and comments on the tragedy on the Life! Memorial page. See page 7.

► **VAYA CON DIOS:** Hispanic convocation is coming to the Vines Center Sept. 21. Read all about it. See page 3.



► **GAMES POSTPONED:** The sports world was affected by Tuesday's events. The teams took the time away from practice to pray. Read John's column on page 10.



► **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** Read the columnists thoughts on last week's tragedy. See pages 4 and 5.

OUT&



► **TUESDAY**
Sunny skies.
High 80, Low 57.



► **WEDNESDAY**
Partly cloudy.
High 79, Low 58.



► **THURSDAY**
Partly cloudy.
High 76, Low 57.



► **FRIDAY**
Scattered T-storms
High 75, Low 56.



► **SATURDAY**
Partly cloudy.
High 77, Low 56.

ABOUT

► **HAPPY BIRTHDAY DIANA!** Let's hear it for our Editor in Chief Diana Bell as she grows another year older and wiser. On Tues., Sept. 18 she will be 22.

► **ROLLER HOCKEY:** Break out your skates and hockey sticks and meet at David's Place on Tuesday, Sept. 18 for roller hockey tryouts. For more info., contact John at ext. 3839.

► **ANSWERS IN GENESIS:** Ken Ham, founder of Answers in Genesis will be speaking at Heritage Baptist Church Sunday Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. and in the Schilling Center Monday Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.

► **GREAT OUTDOORS:** Climb every mountain and forge every stream after attending the information meeting on LU Outdoors to be held Tuesday, Sept. 18, in the Courtyard.

America at War



PHOTO COURTESY BAPTIST PRESS

STAR SPANGLED — Lt. Col. Ellen McArthur, of Red Bank, N.J., proudly displays an American flag that she pulled from the debris of the World Trade Center. Ever since the terrorist attacks, flags have been displayed on cars, in windows, on store signs and elsewhere.

By Diana Bell, editor in chief

In the attacks that shocked the nation one week ago today, more than 5,000 are feared dead.

Even using cell phone technology to trace potential survivors has not helped the rescue effort.

It started out just as any other day does. People woke up, got ready for work and school. Some might have grabbed something to eat or drank coffee. Sept. 11, 2001—9/11 turned out to be just that—9/11 day.

Terrorist attacks shocked the nation as the first of the 110-story World Trade Center Twin Towers was slammed into by a hijacked plane on Tuesday morning. Less than 20 minutes later at 9 a.m., with cameras catching it on tape, the south tower was slammed into. The planes were later found to be American Airlines Flight 11 and Flight 77.

Less than an hour after the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon was hit. Both towers collapsed soon after.

Approximately 20,000 people were thought to have been in the Twin Towers, according to MSNBC.com.

President George W. Bush was in Florida when it happened, but quickly flew to Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, La. He addressed the nation from there. "Freedom itself was attacked this morning and I assure you freedom will be defended," he said.

"make no mistake. The United States will hunt down

and pursue those responsible for these cowardly actions."

Soon after that address, U.S. and Canadian borders were sealed and all air traffic was halted around the country. That is the first time that has ever happened.

Other famous U.S. landmarks, such as the Sears Tower in Chicago, were evacuated.

Most of the sports world canceled its scheduled games in light of the situation.

Osama bin Laden was immediately under suspicion for these attacks. According to MSNBC.com, an Arab language newspaper in London recently said bin Laden had been planning an unprecedented attack on the United States. Bin Laden was thought to be behind the embassy bombings in Africa and the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole last year. George Tenet, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), proclaimed bin Laden "the most immediate and serious threat to U.S. security."

The World Trade Center has been the target of a terrorist attack before. In 1993 six people were killed and more than 1,000 other people were injured.

While the nation and many allies of the U.S. mourned the loss of life suffered, thousands of Palestinians celebrated the attacks by shouting, "God is Great!" and passing out candy.

One Palestinian gunman said, "America and Israel are one. This is the result of American policy."

A fourth attack was believed to be prevented when the hijacked plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

Congress has guaranteed \$40 billion in funds for recovery and retaliation against terrorism. MSNBC called that just a down payment to fund recovery efforts and a military buildup. President Bush has also called up 50,000 people from the Reserves and National Guard. The U.S. has 1.2 million National Guardsmen and Reserves.

President Bush called for a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance on Friday in the National Cathedral. Former U.S. presidents were on hand as were religious leaders from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths.

"This conflict was begun on the the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way and at an hour of our choosing," Bush said, visibly choked up. He described the attacks as "the first war of the 21st century. This is now the focus of my administration...now that war has been declared."

On Saturday, about 22,000 tons of the debris from the destruction had been cleared away. The work has been long and grueling. The rescue workers have worked since the day of the attack. They have had to turn away hundreds of volunteers. Space does not allow for anymore.

President Bush urged the nation to go back to work and get on with their lives on Monday.

Students affected

By Diana Bell, editor in chief

The terrorist attacks that shocked the nation struck close to home for some LU students. With hundreds of students from either New York or D.C. on campus, the Liberty community was affected.

Many classes were cancelled due to the tragedy that occurred on Sept. 11. A special prayer service was later held in the Vines Center at 2 p.m.

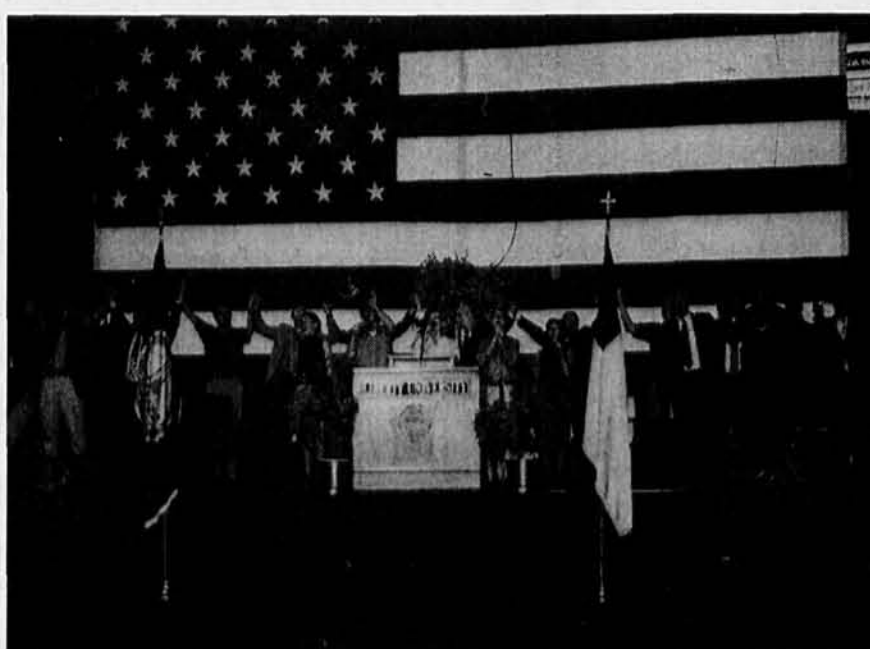
Many local political figures attended the prayer service. Mayor Carl Hutcheson, Chief of Police Chuck Bennett, Sen. Steve Neuman, Del. Kathy Byron and several councilman led in prayer.

A service was held on Sunday at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. The Sounds of Liberty participated. The event, Healing in the Heart of Virginia, was

hosted by WSET, Channel 13. According to their Web site, thousands showed up.

"I feel like the least I could do is show some respect for what not only the people have gone through here in this last week, but also in the past to make our country what it is," Bruce Olson Covington said.

Meghan McGuinness, a sophomore from northern Virginia, had a different interest in watching the coverage of this event. Her father, Col. McGuinness works for the Family Research Council, a sister organization of Focus on the Family. Retired from the Army after 25 years of service, he has become an



JOHN FISHER

HEAL THE NATION — The student body gathered to pray for the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, their families and President Bush in the Vines Center Sept. 11. All classes after 1 p.m. were canceled to allow students to participate.

Please see TRAGEDY, page 3

Circadian Rhythm, Grits, Orayi rock LU



AND YOU THOUGHT GRITS WERE JUST FOR BREAKFAST
— Grits performs for CFAWers in the Schilling Center.

By Rachel Coleman, reporter

Many current and potential Liberty students turned out Friday night for the concert featuring Circadian Rhythm, Grits and Orayi. All three bands brought a mixture of good music and a strong Christian message to the stage.

Orayi opened the concert. The band is made up of LU grads and current students.

When Grits took the stage, students were jumping and singing along; other students were taking pictures.

"I've never heard of them before but I thought they were really good. I liked them a lot," Trumayne Darde, a College for a Weekender, said.

"I really liked Grits' 'We All Fall Down.' It was cool to see it live," sophomore Jacob Adamo said.

After their performance, Grits quieted the crowd and gave them a quick message. The band challenged the audience to not just walk away from Liberty talking about how they were Christians, but to show the country that this is "not just how we live when tragedy hits, but this is 24/7. And you can have it too."

"Seventy-five percent of the country prayed today," the band said, "but how many actually knew what it meant? God said to go and make disciples.

Don't play at being a Christian. This is a serious thing."

Following Grits, there was a short break before Circadian Rhythm came onstage. Circadian Rhythm played many songs from their debut album, *Over Under Everything*, just released this April. Songs like "We are Hungry" and "More Like You" brought the night to a close.

"I liked Circadian Rhythm's sound and they have a really good drummer," Adamo said. "[But] I really appreciated the way both groups took time to pause and give a really good message. They weren't just focused on 'show biz.' They kept it focused on God."

Circadian Rhythm began here in Dorm 22 in 1996. After graduating in 1999, the band moved to D.C. and now lives there according to bassist Paul Barber. "It's fun to travel and make music, and it's definitely a dream come true, but it wouldn't be the same without friends."

"Back when we were in Dorm 22 we never thought it would happen," Barber said. "But once you submit to God's plan He'll do the rest. He'll do things you would never expect. Anybody can be used; if He can use us, He can use anybody."

Circadian Rhythm plans to begin recording early next year.



I GOT ONE HAND IN MY POCKET — LU Grads Circadian Rhythm come back to Liberty for a rockin' concert.

LU students stand in line for hours to donate blood

By Mariel Williams and Lee Ann Livesay

In spite of strong feelings against donating, business consultant Jerry Turpin was at the Vines Center last Tuesday waiting in line to give blood for the first time in 20 years.

"I hate to give blood . . . I despise it, loathe it," he said.

Hearing news of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. inspired Turpin to overcome his feelings about donating blood. "[Giving blood] was the only thing I could do today . . . they run short [of blood] every summer anyway," Turpin said.

Turpin was not the only one to come to give blood this week. In the days following the attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., thousands of people all over America went to their

local chapters of the American Red Cross to give blood. In the Lynchburg area alone, over 2,000 pints of blood were donated in the three days following the attack.

Following the special convocation on Tuesday, people stood in line for hours in order to donate blood. Typically it is only Liberty students and faculty who give blood at drives on LU's campus, but people from all over Lynchburg came.

Many Liberty students gave blood as well. Senior Ricky Nelson gave blood for the first time in four years. He stood in line with more than 30 others. Nelson told the *Lynchburg News and Advance* that he was willing to do whatever they asked him to do, up to giving his arm if they so desired.

Three blood drives had been sched-

uled last Tuesday: at LU, J. Crew and at the Red Cross Community Donor Center.

According to the *News and Advance*, over 40 people gave blood at J. Crew, twice the number they had expected. Several of the donors were students from Sweet Briar College. Merle Alvis, manager of human resources at J. Crew, felt that it was "heart-warming" that so many people from the community showed up to give blood.

According to Lisa Baity, a representative of the Red Cross, almost any healthy adult can donate blood. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and they cannot have had any body piercings or tattoos in the past year. "We're here on this campus four times a year," Baity said. "We'll be back in November, Feb-

ruary and April. I encourage everybody to come out because the need is so great."

The Circle K Club organizes these blood drives, according to the club's faculty advisor, Lew Weider. Each drive lasts two days, typically Monday and Tuesday. The Red Cross sets a goal of 85 donors a day — a total of 170 during the two-day drive, Baity said.

The blood from LU's drive normally would go to 45 hospitals and nine dialysis centers, Baity said. If there is more blood collected than these places have use for, the excess will be sent to whatever part of the country needs it most.

"When people need blood, they can only get it from one place, and that's people like you and me," Weider said.

"If we don't give it, people who need it don't get it . . . tragedies happen every day, and people need blood every day . . . by giving blood, Liberty University students are telling Central Virginia that we care."

LU will have another blood drive in November. Students interested in donating can sign up for an appointment in DeMoss Learning Center during the week before the drive.

"If you're healthy enough to donate, everyone should try it," Myers said. "We need to do it before something horrendous happens like [last Tuesday]."

If you would like to help by donating blood or anything else, you can contact the American Red Cross at 804-845-1233, or by looking on their Web site at www.redcross.org.

MISSION

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Presents

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Dr. David Jeremiah

Pastor, Shadow Mountain Community Church - El Cajon, CA

"MISSION has ministered in my church every year for the past six years. I am not only impressed by their dynamic music but also by the powerful message. Their commitment to world evangelization is very evident."

John Maxwell

Founder, INJOY Ministries - Atlanta, GA

"Every time MISSION ministers the people are blessed. I highly recommend their exciting ministry to any church serious about missions."

Jay Strack

International Evangelist - Orlando, LA

"No one has stirred my heart for the work of missions as much as this outstanding group."

"See You At the Pole" unifies nation

By Chrissy Hannabass, reporter

Students from every state will gather in the courtyard at 7 a.m. to pray for the United States and its leaders on Wednesday.

"See You at the Pole" (SYATP) is open to all students and faculty.

This is a national event where elementary, middle and high school students come together to pray for their schools and the nation.

"I think it's a very appropriate time, a time we certainly need to come together to pray for the nation and the schools," Dan Davis, assistant to the Campus Pastor, said.

Liberty began participating in SYATP in the early 1990s during Spiritual Emphasis Week. Jay Strack spoke about SYATP and encouraged students to join in prayer.

It was then that Campus Pastor Dwayne Carson realized it was time to bring this onto Liberty's campus. He thought it was a good idea for students to come together and pray for their schools at home. Since then, it has become an LU tradition.

Carson said that he feels it is great to be able to see the student body and individuals from each state together as one. "It is not often we are able to see the diversity of the campus in that light," Carson said.

Last year, over 1000 students and faculty attended. SYATP gen-

erally lasts about 40 minutes, with some staying longer to continue in prayer. Davis expects more people to attend this year, because of the heightened awareness from Tuesday's attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. "This year's event will have more significance because of what's happened," Carson said.

This year's prayer event will have a performance by

Eternal Praise and YouthQuest. An SLD and a prayer leader will be there to represent each state.

"People are concerned about what happened and want to seek God's face in it," prayer leader Bianca Ziachoma said.

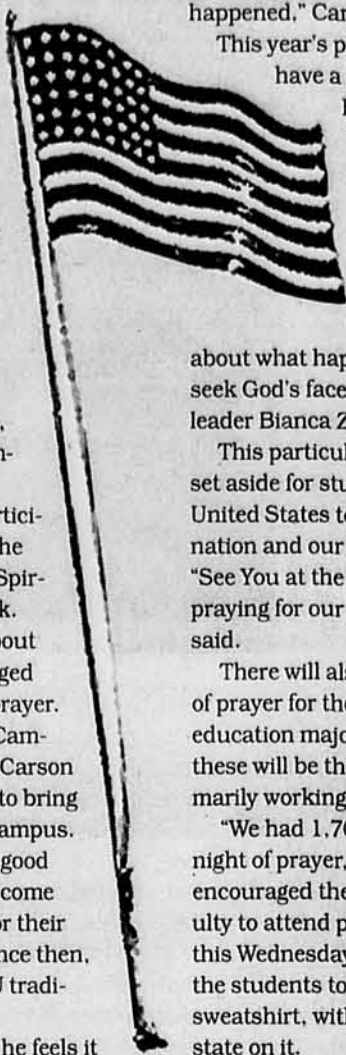
This particular day and time is set aside for students across the United States to pray for our nation and our nation's schools. "See You at the Pole focuses on praying for our country," Carson said.

There will also be a special time of prayer for the youth majors and education majors at LU, since these will be the individuals primarily working with students.

"We had 1,700 students for the night of prayer," Carson said. He encouraged the students and faculty to attend prayer at the pole this Wednesday. He challenged the students to wear a T-shirt or sweatshirt, with the name of their state on it.

Along with the morning of prayer, students are encouraged to fast from lunch on Sept. 18 until lunch on Sept. 19.

For more information on the See You at the Pole movement and its history, visit www.syatp.com.



Hispanic convo to be a first

By Chris Sheppard, news editor

Convocation will have a slightly different flavor Friday, Sept. 21. The Spanish Club along with the Minority and International Student Office (MISO) will be sponsoring something that LU students have never seen before: a Hispanic convocation.

Jorge Valdes will speak. Valdes escaped to the United States from Cuba with his father, brother and sister when he was a young child. Valdes is the author of "Coming Clean," an autobiographical account of how he was saved after being involved with the Colombian drug cartels.

"The guy is amazing," senior Marisol Quintero, president of the Spanish Club, said.

While the message will be given in English, Hispanic culture will be evident throughout the morning. Quintero, a Cuban-American, will introduce Valdes and share some information about the

Spanish Club.

"Hispanics, instead of laying low and blending in with American culture, are beginning to bring our culture to Liberty," Quintero said.

Having a convocation devoted solely to Hispanics has never been done before in Liberty history. Senior Tihara Vargas, a singer on Exodus, came up with the idea for this convocation.

Hispanic convocation coincides with Hispanic Heritage Month which is held in September. For Quintero, having a Hispanic convocation represents campus-wide acceptance.

"We [Hispanics] may worship a little differently, but it is all for the glory of God," sophomore Liz Moreno said.

Hispanics will be the largest minority population in the United States by the year 2010. While some Christian universities may have a convocation or chapel with a missions emphasis or for Black History

Month, few schools have set aside a service focusing solely on Hispanics.

"[Hispanic convocation] is not only a blessing to Hispanics to be able to worship in a familiar way, but it is also a blessing to the rest of the students to be reminded that there is 'one Lord and one faith,'" junior Christina Wade said. "People all over the world will, one day, be worshipping the Lord together."

Currently Hispanic students and those interested in Hispanic culture can attend the weekly Spanish Club services. This Friday's convocation is a chance to inform the student body of the different cultural outlets on campus.

"This convocation is going to give students a taste of Hispanic culture and show [students] that regardless of our background, we have Christ in common," Moreno said.

To experience the Spanish Club, services are held Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the prayer chapel and all are welcome.

CFAWers still attend Tragedy: reaches all

By Lee Ann Livesay, asst. news editor

Over 350 high schoolers, parents and youth leaders descended upon Liberty Mountain Thursday for the first College for a Weekend of the year.

Many students who had planned to come to the event could not do so either because they were unable to get a flight or did not want to come following Tuesday's attacks.

Brian Lilly, a senior, felt that many could not make it because of travel restrictions and even fear of what might happen. "Even though it seemed like there were fewer college for a weekenders, it still went well," Lilly said.

Students made it here by whatever means they could. One weekend traveler eight hours by bus to get here. Despite her difficulties getting here, she hopes to come back to Liberty for her undergraduate education. Joey Sours, a Liberty junior,

had two weekenders staying in his room. "They had a lot of fun," Sours said. "They definitely wanted to come back."

Many activities were planned for this weekend especially for the visitors. Circadian Rhythm performed along with Grits and Orayl on Friday night in the Schilling Center. Students could attend a late night activity on both Friday and Saturday nights. On Friday night they could go to Putt-Putt Golf and Games to enjoy go-carts, batting cages and other games.

Saturday night the Weekenders had a chance to go to Fun Quest for laser tag and skating. Student Life had a trip to the Peaks of Otter planned on Saturday morning for the weekenders and students as well.

Despite the fact that attendance was lower than usual, this was a good weekend for many of the high schoolers that came. Of those who came, many were very impressed with Liberty and plan on coming back following graduation.

Continued from page 1

expert in military issues. He is frequently called on by FOX News to come on its show. He has been on three times since last Tuesday. McGuinness had a lot of friends in the Pentagon and actually lost one of them.

Dave Levine, a senior from New Jersey, found out his father was all right late Tuesday night. His father was working at the Bank of America right across the street from the World Trade Center. He was stuck in the basement for a good part of the day.

J.C. Lagares, a senior from the Bronx, had friends who worked in the World Trade Center. "It affected a lot of my close, personal friends. I didn't know if they were alive or dead," Lagares said.

One of his friends was running 10-15 minutes late. She was supposed to be at work in the World Trade Center at 9

a.m. She was right in front of the building when it was hit.

Lagares said his friends said that it was "mass chaos, running in the streets."

Sophomore Sarah Lee was worried about her father. He works in New York City. It took two hours to hear that her father was safe. "My reactions? Surreal is the word...for me it hit really close to home because this is a place that I knew," Lee said.

Jason Joyce, a junior, had a cousin who worked in the South tower. "We were tight, and not hearing from him for two days made me shake. At that point you expect the worst, especially with the mayor requesting thousands of body bags," Joyce said.

The Campus Pastor's Office is offering counseling for those affected by this tragedy.

-Marcel Williams and Lindsay Bryan contributed to this story

SL

Student Activities

Intramural Sports

David's Place

Lobby Lounge

LU Outdoors

Student Life

www.liberty.edu/campus/studentlife/index.htm

Student Activities

Homecoming Parade
September 29, 2001

Prizes for best home floats
1st \$250 2nd \$150 3rd \$100

Sign your name on today at 4:30

Intramural Sports

David's Place

Monday Night Football
Early Monday Night - Sep

Friday Check Out Winner
No Screen TV - 1st \$100

For more information in these or any other
Student Life event check out our website
or call 582-7171

Opinion

“ We will smoke them out.
—President George W. Bush
”

The Liberty Champion Prayer for the nation

See You at the Pole began with a small group of teenagers in Burleson, Texas who, compelled to pray, drove to three schools to pray for their friends. God used their example to burden youth leaders to share the event and urge youth around the world to join around their school flag pole simultaneously to pray. More than 3 million students from 50 states and more than 20 foreign countries participate in SYATP.

Perhaps on Wednesday during this year's SYATP, those numbers will triple as America has been called to prayer due to a series of terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. President Bush led the nation in a Day of Prayer and Remembrance on Sept. 14, at the National Cathedral in Washington. Hundreds of forwards or prayers have been e-mailed to friends and families urging the start of prayer chains. During Friday's convocation service Dr. Danny Lovett, Dean of Seminary, preached on the Christian's responsibility to pray.

The Psalms have proved to be a book of comfort and a source of hope as the nation collectively looks to God. "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles," (34:17). Wednesday, LU students will gather at 7 am in the courtyard to pray and fast; remember:

- The victims from the four hijacked planes and their families
 - Discernment for the President and his aides as they formulate a response
 - Words of Christians and ministers as they are counseling the hurting
 - Children who are still waiting to be picked up from day care
 - The workers and volunteers who have worked through this awful situation
- See You at the Pole.

Thought of the week:

Modern computer studies have shown that the geographical center of the earth's land areas is located within a short distance of Mount Ararat. (The Genesis Record) Was it a mere coincidence that the Ark landed on Mount Ararat, a central location for the creatures on board to migrate in any direction and repopulate the earth? It is very unlikely.

God has a plan and a purpose for everything. It is probably safe to say that the shadow of the cross was cast on the horizon as soon as Eve took the first bite. "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priest...and they will crucify Him, and the third day He will rise again," (Matt.20:18-19).

The Liberty Champion

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Policies

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 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Letters and columns that appear are the opinion of the author solely, not the Champion editorial board or Liberty University.

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

Send letters to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, Box 20000, Lynchburg, VA 24506 or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

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

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Best All-Around, Association of Christian Collegiate Media 1997-99



Terror in America brings out miraculous

Terror in America...those were the words I saw all day long last Tuesday while holed up in the radio station watching one of the only TVs down on campus. Most of my classes, as with most students, were canceled and I stayed glued to the TV for four straight hours until the prayer service in Vines Center was held.

While they replayed the plane crashing into the second tower and both towers collapsing, and the Pentagon being hit, it was like watching a movie with spectacular special effects.

As soon as I found out about the attacks I had a conversation with a friend and we expressed hopes for a prayer service. Not long after we uttered those words, we saw signs posted saying that we were indeed

“ Even with all of the horrible images flashing across the screen constantly and the horror stories being reported, the stories about heroes and miracles quickly emerged.”

I don't think I've ever felt prouder to go to this university than when students, faculty and administration joined hands, sang, prayed and recited the Pledge of Allegiance together. I thank God for a university that will stop everything and pray on behalf of those hurting.

I praise the Lord for a president who calls for a National Day of Prayer, who doesn't care if he chokes up on camera,

who tries to quiet the nation's troubled hearts by quoting Psalm 23.

Even with all of the horrible images flashing across the screen constantly and the horror stories being reported, the stories about heroes and miracles quickly emerged. I heard on the radio about two men carrying a handicapped woman to safety down 86 flights of stairs. I hadn't even thought about the handicapped not being able to reach safety unless someone helped them.

It made me wonder what I would have done in that situation. Would I have taken the time out, time I could not have spared, to help someone else? Or would I have

“ been so caught up in thinking about my own hopeless situation that I didn't even notice? More stories of heroes poured across the news wires with every passing moment.”

While researching for the story on how this tragedy has affected this campus, I talked to many people. I heard story after story of God sparing people's lives. From alarms not going off to days off being changed to someone leaving the area just before one of the buildings was hit, people

who should have been in the World Trade Center Towers or the Pentagon, weren't.

I have heard stories of people onboard the hijacked planes or in the buildings calling family members and friends from their cell phones, telling them that they wouldn't be coming home. I can't imagine receiving



dianabell

a call like that or having to make one.

People are saying that Sept. 11, 2001 is a day our generation will never forget. It will be the day we ask, "Where were you when?" about. It's been compared to the day Kennedy was assassinated. It's also

been compared to Pearl Harbor.

I hope no one, my generation or not, ever forgets this day. It's the day that America was forced to realize its utter dependence on God. This tragedy affected each and every facet of the nation—financial, military, employment, air travel, mail delivery, etc.

Through this tragedy, as Dr. Falwell said in the special prayer service, "God can use a terrible, terrible tragedy to bring spiritual awakening to our country." Let us never forget.

Get back to the beginning: Genesis 1:1

I think that some of us have a childhood or adolescent memory of an event that so impressed us that it has become the motivation behind what we have decided to pursue in college; an event that, when we look back, is a revelation of God's will for our lives.

I remember my first attempt to defend the truth of special creation. It was in a high school AP biology class. To my surprise, my objection to the theory of evolution was met with smirks and head shaking. I was immediately labeled as one of those ignorant Christians. I was speechless. Suddenly, I forgot all of the evidence against evolution that I had packed in my pocket to rattle off to the class. I just stood in amazement at the realization that the people I had grown up with since elementary school actually believed the foolishness of "molecules to man," "frog to a prince," "primordial soup to ape-like ancestor"...the theory of evolution.

Determined not to be labeled a fool, I marched into class the next day fully loaded with an arsenal of creation science resources. I lined books and magazines along the black board as the teacher announced that I had welcomed anyone to view the resources after class. Again, to my surprise, the only person to approach the blackboard after class was the teacher. She asked to borrow one of the books. When she returned it she said, "I'm always open to different ideas."

Different ideas. That is what the world thinks of special creation, it's just another idea. The creation/evolution battle began with the 1925 Scopes Trial, and has refused to go away. Perhaps because public opinion poles show that almost half of Americans believe the world was created

by a God less than 10,000 years ago. Education Week noted that two-thirds of the 800 people polled during the controversy over the decision by the Kansas Board of Education to remove all references to evolution from state science standards, wanted the biblical story of creation taught alongside evolution.

One of today's leading organizations at the forefront of the creation science movement is Answers in Genesis. An Australian high school biology teacher, Ken Ham, who realized the major conflict between the message of Genesis and the message of evolution, launched the organization in 1993. Ham believes that the violence and hopelessness found among today's teens, witnessed in school shootings and rising suicide rates, can be attributed to what they are being taught in biology classes across the country. "Generations of school children are being taught that they came from slime, they don't know why they're here, where they came from, they're just animals and there is no purpose to life. We need to teach them that God created them and that there is purpose and meaning to life," Ham said in an interview.

Answers in Genesis also seeks to inform churches to use this same thinking when presenting the gospel. When Paul approached the Gentiles in Acts 14 and 17, he didn't begin preaching the cross of Christ, for the cross of Christ was foolish to the Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:23). He began by telling them about the true God who is creator because, like the Gentiles of today, they believed in a form of evolution—that

no God had authority over them.

Ham explains why restoring the foundation of Genesis is so important. "If God made us, He knows what's best for us...most important, we are accountable to Him, worthy of infinite punishment for violating His infinite holiness, and have only one way out, this is to believe that Jesus



tracilawson

Christ...bore the punishment we deserve. But if no one made us, then rules are simply conventions from culture or have evolved for survival value, and there is no objective basis for deciding right and wrong." The Answers Book points out, "The truth of the good news about Jesus Christ depends totally upon the truth of the bad news about Adam's rebellion against his maker." Gary Parker, in Creation Facts of Life, says about Genesis, "Perhaps the only way to find out where we are in the human drama...is to go back to the very beginning."

I had the privilege of traveling to Australia with Ken Ham when I graduated from high school. The trip was a confirmation for the direction I believed God was leading me in life. Ken Ham is scheduled to speak at Liberty University this weekend, Sept. 22. Come and discover the transformation of the gospel as the foundation of Genesis is restored.

The 'greatest job in the world;' more than meets the eye

I have the greatest summer job in the world. I'm a lifeguard. You know, one of those people who sit up on a stand and tell people to walk on the deck and not to push anyone in. I get to spend my summer at the pool. Not only that, but I also get paid to be there and keep people from hurting themselves. You would be surprised at how little people think when they are at the pool.

For instance, people love to try crazy things when they go off the slide. This includes going down head first, lying down, backwards and all manner of last second turns once they get to the bottom, such as turning around, leaning back, etcetera. Then there are the parents who encourage their kids to go down, often when the kids can't swim. Obviously, there is a slight problem there.

Some of my favorite nonsensical things people at my pool do involve the diving

boards. For instance, parents love to have their kids go off of the boards. Often they

try to catch them, but we tell them not to do this because if the child cannot swim, they have no business going off of the boards, which incidentally are in 12 feet of water. Then there are the parents, who encourage their 2-year-old to go off of the high dive. Much to the parent's surprise, I have to blow my whistle and tell them that their child cannot go off the board because their child cannot swim.

Another great thing about my job is that I have some great co-workers who work hard and always have fun. This makes life



miketroxel

at work very enjoyable as well as interesting sometimes when the inevitable practical jokes happen, such as "accidentally" spraying each other with the hose while cleaning the bathrooms or the trashcans, or what ever we happen to be washing at the time.

As enjoyable as these things may be, they are not the reason why I call my job "the greatest job in the world." You see, my pool is the main hangout in the summer for a few hundred public school children in Campbell County. A good number of those kids are not saved; some of my co-workers aren't either. This means I have a great opportunity to be a witness and an example to them when I am at work. That is why I have the greatest job on earth. And although you many not know it, where ever you work, life or play, you have the greatest job too.

Commentary

SHE STILL STANDS



'A Psalm for New York'

I cry tears
to you Lord
tears
because I cannot speak.
Words are lost
among my fears
pain
sorrow
losses
hurts
but tears
You understand
my wordless prayer
You hear, Lord
wipe away all my tears
all tears
not in a distant day
but now here.
(J. Bayly)

Submitted by:
Joshua Brown
Office of Dean of Men

America's cry to God in tragedy ironic

This past Tuesday our nation was devastated by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The areas close to the attack and the country as a whole were in turmoil. All Americans could do was turn to God in prayer and look to our military, led by Commander in Chief President George W. Bush, for resolve. These seem to be common reactions from Americans when our nation is in the midst of a crisis.

Why is it that we seldom speak of God or Christianity any other time? We have conveniently called prayer "a moment of silence," and discouraged the use of God in any way in order to be tolerant of other beliefs. The thing that bothers me is the advice the media, leaders and officials and everyone interviewed gave to the citizens of this country: to pray for those involved and that God would bring justice to those who committed this evil crime. At any other time, the mention of prayer or God would be unacceptable, but when Americans need help that they can't find within themselves, they turn back to the One who they have left behind. As I watched the tragedy unfold on CNN, I heard countless accounts of witnesses stopping to pray for protection.

What does God think of us as a nation? How does it make Him feel to know that we do all we can to go against Him and remove His principles from as much of our culture as we can, but when terror strikes, He becomes the One we as a nation run to for help?

The other reaction most Americans have during a time of crisis is to look to our military and defense for answers.

In the Clinton administration, our military was continually downsized. In fact, according to the Department of Defense, military had about 2 million service men and women when Clinton became president but had only about 1.4 million after. It seems that Americans have a false sense of security that flourishes due to a lack of education on military matters. We felt that we are invincible and that our world was in a state of peace. The funding priorities switched the military to education



timasimos

ities switched the military to education and health-care. However, in a time of crisis, the ones who come running to our military for help are the ones who say that we spend too much money on our defense. Why is that?

Why do people only see a need for something, when the need is immediate? Do we only need God when we are hurt or need money? Do we only need our military when someone attacks our nation's capitol? Of course not. Unfortunately, that is the ignorant view of our generation that could eventually lead to our demise; we have no concept of the big picture. Military serves a purpose. That purpose is to protect the well-being of the American people and to defend and prevent tragedy from taking place. Sure, there are times when it seems like we need fewer guns, fewer planes, fewer tanks and fewer soldiers, but you never know what tomorrow will

bring. Who could have known that Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001 would be a day never to be forgotten in American history? No one could have, which is my point. The bottom line is: more than education, more than healthcare, more than anything else, the most important thing our Federal government should do is focus on the security of the American people.

Most importantly, we shouldn't only look to God in a time of need, just as we shouldn't only want a military when our security is in danger. The truth is, we always need God. Without His guidance in our daily lives and in the affairs of our country, we will miss out on His blessings. God is also our protection.

Proverbs 18:10 says "the name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe."

Through all

"Through all of this, we as Christians have a responsibility to pray for the situation."

Christians have a responsibility to pray for the situation. Our leaders need our prayers for wisdom and guidance. The victims and their families need prayer. Most importantly, we must pray that our nation would return to its first love—for God and biblical principles.

Evangelist Billy Sunday said, "Christianity and patriotism are synonymous terms." Our country needs to feel that way again and get our priorities straight by placing our faith in God not just in a time of crisis but in our daily life. After all, God helped our founding fathers overcome immense adversity during our country's humble beginnings, only because they knew the key to success was by following God and using the power of prayer.

Proud to be in America; the country that won't quit

I have never in my life been more proud to be an American. I've always loved this country; it is tough not to. This country landed the first man on the moon, invented baseball, has been a beacon of freedom for all to see and perfected the chicken wing. This is truly a great place.

Tuesday's events were a breaking point for this country. This is the greatest act of terrorism we have ever seen, and the world watched for our reaction. People around the world wanted to see us live in fear, or see the lazy Americans not get off their sofas long enough to help their neighbor. They wanted to see our citizens and leaders turn their backs on God. Some people around the world were sorely disappointed.

They underestimated us. Instead of dividing us, making us live in fear, we unified in a fearless anger. Instead of seeing us turn our backs on each other, they saw our generation waiting for hours in lines to help. Instead of seeing a nation turn their backs on God, they saw a nation hit their knees before Him. Our president sought God's face with a day of prayer and comforted our nation with Scripture. Partisan bickering is no longer. We've become one nation under God.

The challenge for us is not to put up a good front for the world. We don't need to put on an act for the world. The real

challenge for us is to keep the true spirit of America alive. We often only see the best of people in the worst situations and only turn to God when we run out of options.

This is not what our forefathers intended. This is going to be a trying time in our lives. This may be the worst thing our age group ever has to live through. If we can keep this American spirit and remain on our

knees before God, this country will truly be a light to the world.

Continue praying for the victim's families, our leadership and that God would be glorified through all that happens. God bless America.



chrisprice

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Private school: the Christian answer to all of life's ills

Bloodbaths are losing shock value, condoms are distributed like candy and evolution is the norm in biology class in public schools.

Private education has suddenly become the new Christian infomercial. I often get the "commercial pitch" impression that every child who enters the public school system is destined to be impregnated, drugged and liquored up by the time they are 18-years-old. They could also be shot by a deranged school-mate, but private schooling will solve all our problems.

Private school promoters review the religious history of our country, including the recent decline. These supporters launch into a list of reasons public school systems could and would, in their mind's eye, corrupt good, Christian children.

Private, religious schooling is favored in many Christian

circles, though I conclude that the referee was paid off. Public schools seem to be Satan in a principal's suit, and private education is a parent's savior.

Christians are taking a stand for religious, private-based education. I don't believe it is the win-all solution. As a child of public schools, I thank God that I went to public school. At times I hated the existence of the educational



johannaprice

system as a whole, growing tired of seeing my classmates stumble into class high as a kite. I lost several classmates to suicide and alcohol-related car crashes. I wasn't in a bubble.

I was raised in a pastor's home and had no idea how the secular world lived. Public education introduced me to the real world. Now I know how the other side lives. I attended high

school with two other PKs out of a class of over 400. I understood that my mindset was not the majority. I believe it to be the best education in the sense that Christian students learn what they will be up against in the working world.

Every student cranked out of private schools is not sheltered and naïve. Some simply don't know what to do once outside of private, Christian education. My sister, Lauren, is a prime example. She was in private Christian education until she entered middle school. Then—boom—culture-shock came. She learned that in the real world, winning trust has to come before winning friends to Christ.

Ultimately, public schools are a ministry that most people don't think to touch. Public schools need Christians just as much as the rest of the dying world.

Life!

picks of the week

9/18. "LU Outdoors Club Meeting"

All interested in outdoor adventures meet at 7 p.m. in the Courtyard. Call 239-0827 or 847-2481 for more info.

9/22 "Tournament of Bands."

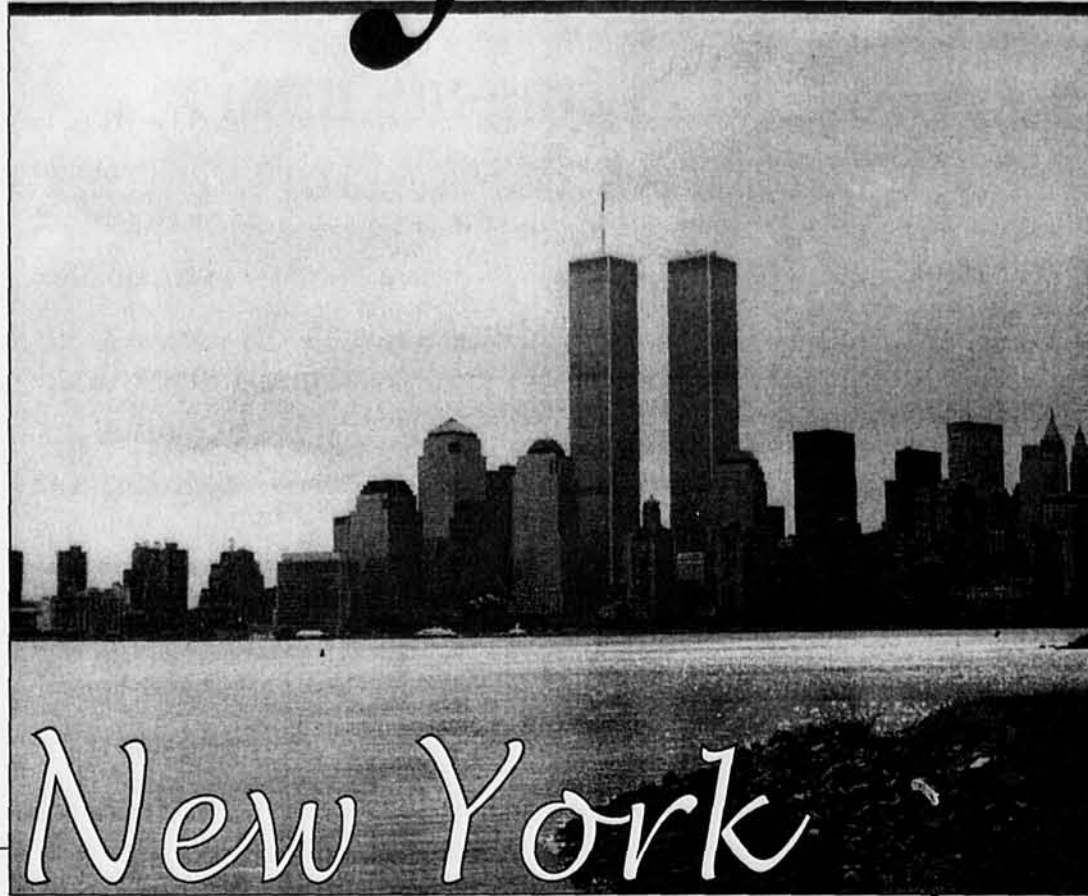
An annual event featuring marching bands from around Virginia. Held at the Amherst County High School football field. 12:30 p.m. tentative. Cost \$5. Call 929-1738 for details.

9/22. "Kings Dominion Fall Christian Festival."

Enjoy the rides at Kings Dominion. For more information, call Student Life: 582-2131.

9/23. "Lynchburg Symphony Concert."

The Lynchburg Symphony will play music from around America, featuring regional favorites. 3 p.m. at E.C. Glass High School. \$15 a ticket. Call 845-6604 for information.



JOHN FISHER

New York state of mind

By Laura Kanzler, LIFE! editor

I'm in a New York state of mind... Yes, Billy Joel, we are all in a New York state of mind. The Big Apple. The City that Never Sleeps. The Capital of the Financial World. Call it whatever you want.

Love it or hate it, New York will forever be a focal point of this nation, of this world. And the beloved Twin Towers stood as a reminder to all of us that democracy and capitalism worked.

But for many, the Twin Towers were not just some distant buildings glowing in a darkened skyline; the towers were a playground, a meeting point, and a place to grab a coffee with friends, an office.

"I have a lot of memories there," J.C. Lagares, a senior from the Bronx, said. "It's very sentimental." Lagares explained that it was on those very towers he and his youth group would pray over the city during an annual "NY Gospel Outreach" week held for youth groups across New York City.

Since 1987, this outreach week has revolved around the Twin Towers and the Empire State Building. Teens would meet at the towers and pray and from there, go out into the city witnessing to strangers.

"It brings a lot of memories spiritually," Lagares said. "We had a lot of people saved there."

Jaclyn Torres, a senior from Queens, also has a lot of memories about the Twin Towers. She used to work there.

"Obviously, [New York] is the greatest city in the world," Torres said. "It's my home, you know?"

As much as it is New Yorkers' home, those famous towers drew in Americans from surrounding areas as well.

"The Twin Towers were my pride and joy," Miriam Leonardo, a junior from New Jersey, said. "Whenever I brought friends

home, that's where we would go."

Up close, the towers rose so high, visitors craned their necks to view the entire structures from the base. From a distance, the towers stood much like a lighthouse gleaming across the sea.

"It's the heart and soul of New York City,"

Brad Butler, a senior from Philadelphia said. "No matter what borough you're in, you expect to see it."

As many of us are slowly realizing, life as we knew it is over. We will look for the towers rising in the distance, but there lies only grim reminders.

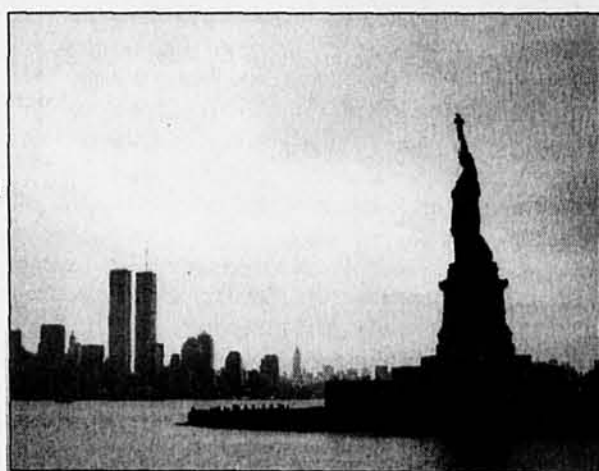
"I don't want to be afraid," Leonardo said. "I don't want my life to change. I'm going home to New York City."

And suddenly, no matter how near or far we live from New York, it is our home. Our backyard. Our children's playground. Our offices.

"There's no doubt in my mind that it's gonna be rebuilt," Torres said. "It's gonna be bigger and better."

"The Twin Towers were my pride and joy. Whenever I brought friends home, that's where we would go."

—Miriam Leonardo Jr., New Jersey



JOHN FISHER

MEMORIES OF HOME — The New York skyline before last Tuesday's devastating attack.

laura kanzler

Memoirs of Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Every generation of Americans has a moment. A singular space in time when they stand on the brink of the unknown. And in those few seconds their way of life changes forever.

Pearl Harbor shook a generation. Bombs and kamikaze fighter pilots awakened these young men and women as hundreds died on ships in a quiet Hawaii harbor. They sleep in watery graves, an ever-present reminder of the price of freedom.

Our generation has been asleep. We have been floating atop of the sacrifices of other generations. We get up in the morning and earn our money and go to bed at night because of others.

But on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, we woke up. Bleary eyed, we found ourselves standing on the brink of the unknown. We watched our fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters and friends crumble with the World Trade Centers. We gasped as they leapt to their deaths and choked as they ran out of the Pentagon.

The fires still burning and the acrid stench of death and debris at our feet, we stand.

But what will we do? Will we complain about our convenient way of life being interrupted?

How upset were we when MTV went off the air? What price are we willing to pay for our freedom? How strong is our faith in God?

We must take the step. Destiny has come to us: on our soil, on the wings of our own airplanes and with the deaths of our people. Our only recourse is to move swiftly against this enemy. Selflessness does not come easily to our coddled generation. But we must learn it now.

We must learn to accept the fact that our way of life may become harder. With hardship comes sacrifice. We must learn to sacrifice our conveniences for our future freedom. We must learn to help our fellow Americans. We must learn to be patriotic again.

For every American that falls, 10 must rise in his or her stead. We must learn to pray. Not for our fortune, or ourselves, but for others — for the victims, and for justice. We must learn not to hate. The enemy's hatred caused these atrocities, we must guard against that poison.

And we must learn to be ready, just as our relatives were when World War II began.

We must never forget the gash in the Pentagon and the crater left by the World Trade Center — the moment our generation stood against the dark unknown.

jana rutenbeck

In a second, life as we knew it ceased. Premeditated events spurred by blind hatred shattered our world. It was a moment of shock and confusion. As we tried to understand what had just occurred, we watched in helplessness as they struck us again and again. As each bit of news was released, the severity of the situation became apparent. The only thing we could do was pray, as the situation became increasingly worse.

After the planes crashed, hundreds of fire fighters and other emergency workers raced into the building, only to be lost with those they were valiantly trying to save.

My mind is filled with images of children who didn't get picked up from school last Tuesday, and spouses who kissed each other goodbye for the last time. So many dreams were shattered. So many lives were lost.

As students are forced to resume with normal life, there is a burden on the hearts of many that is undeniable.

For others, it is easy to shake their heads and go on with their lives. Yet it doesn't disappear when no one speaks of it. It should not be pushed into the corners of our minds. This is not over. No one knows what will happen next.

this week has opted to drive. The effects of the FAA's decision has yet to keep speakers from coming.

As for O'Donnell, her determination to get home to Boca Raton, Fla. urged her on. She looked up train and bus schedules. The buses were full and a long, expensive train ride seemed her only option.

"God provided. I just randomly was talking on my cell phone [at Liberty] and I saw a friend and his brother happened to be visiting from Florida and (the brother) didn't want to drive back alone," O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell ended her extended vacation two days ago. After a long 14-hour car ride, O'Donnell finally arrived home; exactly one week later.

Looking back on her unlikely experience, O'Donnell said, "I have absolutely nothing to complain about. I was with friends. I had a job...So many people are going through loss and tragedy. God completely took care of me."



FILE PHOTO

STRANDED FAR FROM HOME — Many travelers found themselves stuck on the ground with limited chances to get home.

I am thankful for all of those whose hearts are sensitive to this, for those who consistently pray and think about all those who are suffering. I was impressed by the television stations that cancelled their programs on Tuesday. I am grateful for the sports teams that have cancelled their games. Beyond all of these, I am thankful that our president is truly leading this country as one nation, under God.

Never before have I heard so much about prayer in the media. Secular radio stations are stating the name of God, not in vain, but as the One to turn to.

It is a beautiful sight to see our flag so proudly flown, and to see students raising joined hands at the singing of "God Bless America." Finally our generation knows the meaning of patriotism. We grew up reciting the pledge of allegiance without thinking about what it meant. Now we pledge allegiance, not as a drill, but with our hearts, with meaning, with pride.

We are truly blessed to live in America. Now that we have had a taste of what other countries see every day, we realize how fortunate we are. I like to think that those who fought for the freedom of our nation would be proud of us now, now that we fully understand what they fought for. Now we truly love our country.

Some say it is God's vengeance, some say it is His mercy. Either way, I know how big my God is. I know He is in control, and that His ways are higher than our ways. I know that He is a refuge for those that seek Him. Now, many who don't know Him are crying out for help. And He will answer.

In Remembrance

Thoughts and Prayers

"It's so hard to know the pain they're going through...I can't imagine the feelings and hurts."

—Emily Gerber, Fr.
Ohio

"I am praying that Americans in general will handle this appropriately and that this will turn our nation back to God."

—Megan Barthelmes, Sr.
Ohio

"It doesn't seem real. You try to make sense out of it but you can't. I'm hurting for the families and wanting to help but I know there's nothing I can do except pray."

—Emily Kull, Sr.
Illinois

"I see this nation as a sleeping giant. I think that this event has brought us back on our toes in realizing that this nation needs God. In times like these our country does great things that God has intended us to."

—Ryan Alderfer, Jr.
Pennsylvania

"I'm praying for Christ to guide President Bush in correct directions and courses of action to be taken against the terrorists, and maybe that this group would surrender themselves before we have to follow through with destructive actions."

—Jeff Lackey, Jr.
Virginia

"It was a life-changing event. I hope that America will be led back to the roots that it was founded on."

—Jason Munford, Soph.
Virginia

"My prayer is that we become one nation, united under God, not united merely to get revenge."

—Ricky Hardison, Soph.
Georgia

"We just don't know what's going to happen next. But that's always the case and we tend to forget that. This tragedy has magnified the reality of that, and it has magnified the reality of how much we can suffer, and of how far we are from God."

—Dr. Lynnda Beavers
Virginia

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For You are with me..."

—Psalm 23:4

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning... We will show the world that we will win this."

—President George W. Bush



Students pray at Tuesday's "Pray for America" convocation

PHOTOS BY JOHN FISHER

"My prayer from the day that it happened is that our enemies would look back on this day as one of the most horrific mistakes they've ever made. That on this day, we as a nation rallied around with great patriotism and unity and sought God."

—Daniel Samms, Jr.
West Virginia

"It's like a dream that I'm still going to wake up from. It hasn't completely settled in yet."

—Mary Haddaway, Sr.
Maryland

"In one moment our arrogance was shaken, and for the first time in many years we realized that no matter how stable we believe our nation to be, God is in control, and He can bring us to our knees by whatever means necessary. Let us turn back to the original intent of our blessed country, allow Him to sweep away the ashes and rebuild America's foundation once more on His undeniable providence and purpose for our lives."

—Brooke Anderson, Soph.
Florida

"I just pray that America will be strong to endure the long days ahead and that we will learn to look to God for our strength."

—Chris Sheppard, Sr.
Florida

"I feel like this is a wake-up call from God to our nation...It's like God is telling us that He's watching and He is in control. My prayer is that the religious leaders of this nation will unite and will call the people back to repentance in one voice."

—Patrick Fowler, Soph.
Kentucky

"This has been a horrible thing, but it's been good in the fact that it shows us that we are vulnerable. I'm praying for the well-being of the victims and their families, for any survivors that may be found, and for the wisdom and guidance of our country's leadership."

—John Finley, Soph.
Louisiana

"I think we are just all still in shock. This is a horrible nightmare."

—Amy Harmer, Jr.
Indiana



SAFE AT THIRD—A Longwood player successfully slides back into third base during Liberty's 6-1 victory in an exhibition game on Saturday.

V'ball: falls to JMU Dukes

Continued from page 10

"Unfortunately we felt under an obligation to play the match because JMU was already on the road," Coach Phillips said.

The Flames played JMU coming off a big

win, as they defeated Fairfield and Alabama on the second day of their tournament last weekend.

Their first win of the season was picked up when they beat Fairfield 3-2 with scores of 31-29, 33-35,

26-30, and 30-23, and 15-10. Summer Elmquist led her team with 24 kills, followed closely by Rachel Harnack who had 19 kills.

The Flames were pumped and ready to go as they took on their next opponent, Alabama.

Winning this match was no easy feat, however.

They defeated Alabama 3-2 with scores of 27-30, 30-27, 30-25, 28-30, and 15-12. Jennifer Belk led the attack in this match with 20 kills, followed by Summer Elmquist who had 14 kills.

"Unfortunately we felt under an obligation to play the match because JMU was already on the road."

—Coach Chris Phillips

Elmquist was named to the all-tournament team, which was a first time honor for her in a regular season tournament.

The Lady Flames will take on

Virginia Tech in Blacksburg on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. and play at Birmingham-Southern on Saturday, Sept. 22, also at 7 p.m.

W'tennis: season begins

Continued from page 10

round in doubles and advanced to the semi-finals only to lose to Loyola College, the champions.

Coach Hubbard has a positive outlook for the season. He "saw lots of good things from four of our five freshmen." The fifth freshmen,

Amber Barrett, did not make the trip to the invitational, "but her practices indicate that she is ready to step in and play doubles and should break her way into the lineup in the next two weeks," Hubbard said.

Other Lady Flames not participating in the invitational were sophomores Bethany Allen and April

Herrmann, allowing the freshmen to "get some much needed college match experience."

However, Allen and Herrmann are expected to compete in the top six singles and top three doubles spots.

The Lady Flames will play again on Wednesday at the ITA Clay Court Championship.

Roller hockey enters into its second season

By Wes Rickards, asst. sports ed.

Last year, the young and inexperienced Liberty Roller Hockey team was forced to truncate its schedule as it opted not to play its final few games. However, they have returned for another season, a season dedicated towards focus and determination.

"We're much, much more organized this year," said John Bendever, the team's president and captain. "We had more than 10 weeks—the entire summer to plan this."

This year, the team will unveil new uniforms, new logos and a new Web site to accompany the Student Life page. Still searching for players, the team is willing to take people who play for the ice hockey team. But despite their need to fill a squad, the roller

hockey team, unlike last year, is not open to just anyone.

"There's a skate session on Tuesday [Sept. 18] at 6 p.m., where we'll carpool to Roanoke. But this year, if you can't skate, you're not on the team," said Bendever.

During the season, Liberty will participate in a few main events, including two tournaments in Fredericksburg, Va., and one in Philadelphia. The Fredericksburg tournaments will be held at "Slap Shots" on Nov. 2-4 and Feb. 1-3; the team will play at the Marple Arena in Philadelphia Penn. on Feb. 22-24.

Although it is unknown which teams Liberty will play at those tournaments, the schedule will mostly consist of Division II and B teams.

"We played well every game last year. We hung with them for awhile, but then we got 'mercy'd'," Bendever said, referring to the fact that the team was frequently on the receiving end of the domination rule. "But this year, we have a much more focused plan."

In addition to the great strides the team has made in the past few months, the roller hockey team hopes to play home games and "elaborate scrimmages" in Roanoke next season.

"This is as high as you can get in college," Bendever said. "It's a dream to play on the next level."

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Q & A Session
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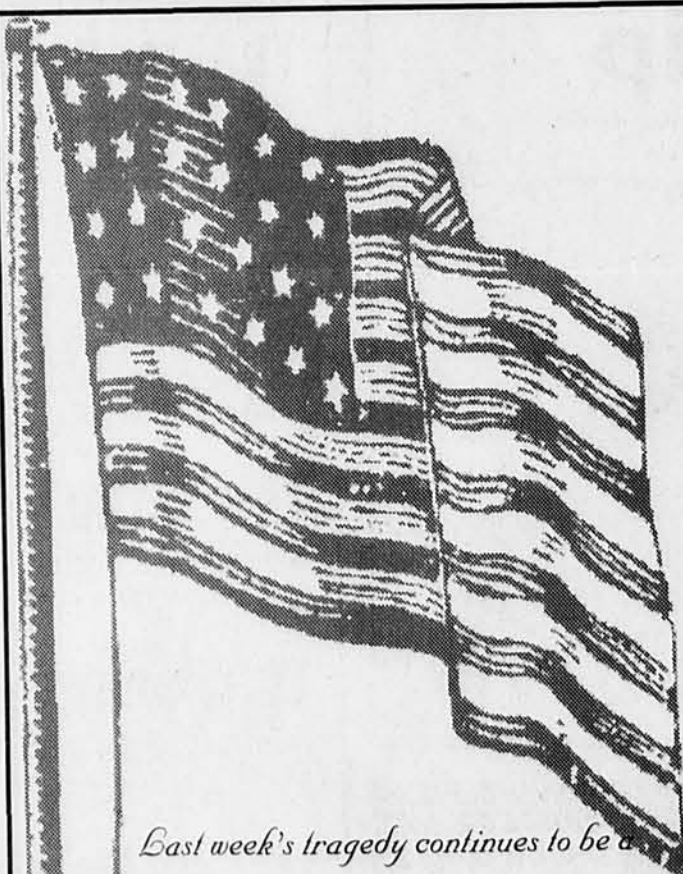
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Road to Omaha begins with Fall ball

By Joel Patrick, reporter

Liberty baseball officially started its fall practice on Thursday, Sept. 12. After falling short of its goal last year, Liberty has its hearts and minds set on winning the Big South.

"We have a long way to go," Head Coach Dave Pastors said. "We didn't win the Big South."

The team's ultimate goal is to go to Omaha, Neb. and win the national championship, a realistic goal when one considers the talent that Liberty has had in the past and the teams they have competed against on the national level.

"We have a lot of work to do

to get to Omaha," Pastors said. However, work is nothing new for the program.

This year's recruiting class was "pitching-oriented with a good future," Pastors said.

Liberty loaded its Fall roster with freshmen in hopes of finding the pitching needed to fill the holes left by graduating seniors Dan Valentin, Anthony Pennix, Matt Stewart and Darren Adams. Additionally, they also lost closer Josh Brey after he was drafted in the fourth round by the St. Louis Cardinals in this year's Major League draft.

The makeup of the Liberty baseball team is unique and close. The senior dominated roster has accepted the freshmen

class as pieces needed to fulfill their ultimate goal that they have set for themselves.

Pastors emphasizes the need for unity and character. The team verse is Romans 15:5,6. Pastors chose this verse as the team verse to get the point across that unity in Christ is what is going to lead their team.

"This team has a sense of urgency and willingness to do what is necessary to achieve the goals set forth this upcoming season," Richard Long (Fr., P. Fla.), said.

"We have great chemistry," said Israel Noble (Sr., OF, Mich.). "The team has set the tone for growth not only physically but also spiritually as men of Christ.

There is more to Liberty baseball than what happens on the field."

The spiritual aspect of the team was demonstrated on Friday. During President Bush's call for a National Day of Prayer, the baseball team broke up into groups and prayed for the country.

"I think the best part of this program is that it is a Division-I program that is God centered," Steve Baker (Sr., OF, N.Y.), said.

With young pitching, talented leaders and a coach set on character, Liberty baseball is planning on taking the gospel to the world of college baseball on the way to Omaha.



FILE PHOTO

IT STARTS— The Flames look to add another championship this season.

B'ball: Teaching life's lessons

Continued from page 10

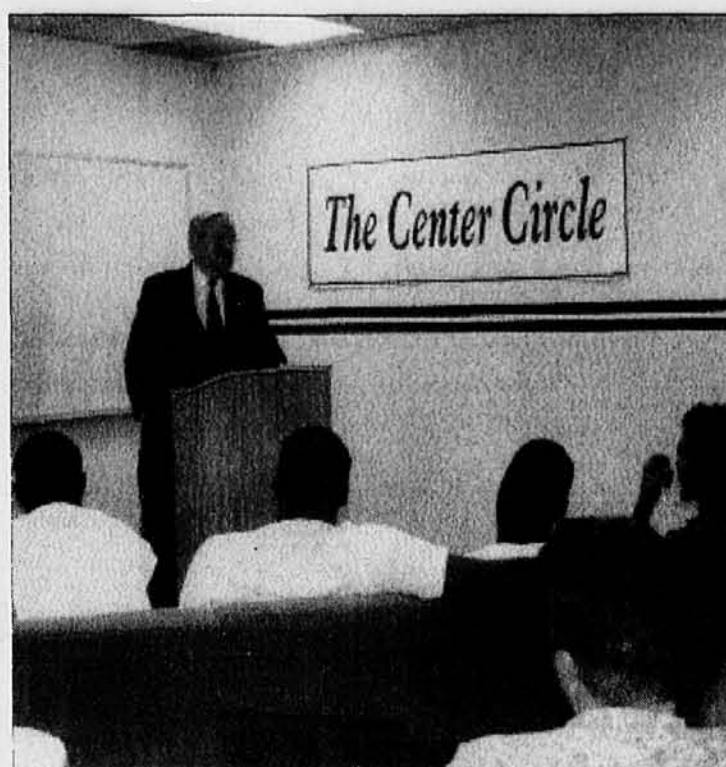
"Why people have moved to the top of their profession. What thread runs through their lives that has helped them become successful."

In the first week of the program, the team heard from Cameron Mills, who graduated and now works for the University of Kentucky. Mills was a member of the Wildcats team that won the 1998 National Championship.

"Cameron Mills implemented a level of understanding to these guys. He knows what it takes to perform individually and as a team," Doig said.

The development program will continue for several weeks with some weeks having multiple speakers.

"We're teaching these fellas more than how to dribble and shoot a basketball. It's about spiritual, social and psychological development," Hankinson said.



SUSAN WHITLEY

STAY FOCUSED— Dr. Falwell addresses the basketball team.

Flames finish strong at VMI Invitational

By Tim Vitello, reporter

The Liberty men's and women's cross country teams began their seasons by finishing first and second at the 2001 VMI Invitational. The event was held at Rockridge County High School in Lexington, Va. on Sept. 7.

The men's team, which finished fourth place in the Big South last year, managed to surprise Coach Brant Tolsma by placing first without one of their best new runners this year, Josiah Melly of Kenya.

"(Melly) is expected to challenge Josh (Zealand) for the top spot, although we've only gotten to see him for one practice," Tolsma said.

Leading the team in the absence of Melly were Josh Zealand (Jr., Lindsay, Ontario), Tony Sangutei (Jr., Kapsabet, Kenya) and Dan Rabe (So., Imperial, Pa.), finishing consecutively in third,

fourth and fifth place overall with times of 21:13, 21:19 and 21:27, respectively.

Coach Tolsma was very pleased with the close finishes. "It was a nice surprise to see Tony and Dan finish close to Josh," Coach Tolsma said.

Besides not having Melly able to run, knowing that the meet was the men's first without last year's Big South Runner of the Year Bruce Kite made the first place finish that much more impressive. Coach Tolsma said that he "expected the women's team to be better than the men's this year," but added, "maybe the men's team will step up."

The women's team, which ranked first in the Big South last year, finished second at the VMI Invitational.

Freshman Samantha Pelletier won the overall event with a time of 15:35. Coach Tolsma was very

impressed with the finish, calling Pelletier "One of the best Rookies ever" to run for Liberty, placing Pelletier in the same category as current sophomore Valerie Westphal and junior Rebecca Parsons, the 2000 and 1999 Big South Conference Rookies of the Year.

Rounding out the last four positions for the women's cross country team (Only a team's top five finishers count towards the point total) were junior Sarah Pettit, finishing sixth overall; junior Christina Strohecker, finishing eighth overall; Westphal, finishing 13th overall, and freshman Melissa Blackstone, finishing right after Westphal, 14th overall. Sophomore Katie Butler also ran for the Lady Flames and finished 30th.

Like the men's team, the women's team was also without one of their best runners, senior Heather Sagan, an Academic All-American and the first LU woman ever to be invited to nationals where she finished 59th among the nations top 250 women runners. Sagan was unable to compete due to sickness.

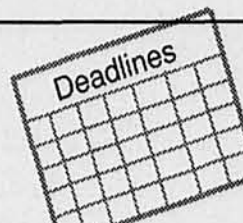
The Lady Flames were also without junior Rebecca Parsons, the 1999 Big South Conference Rookie of the Year, who couldn't compete because of an injury and may be out for the rest of the season.

The next competition for both the men's and women's cross country teams will be at the Great American Festival in Rock Hill, S.C., where they will be competing against some of the top teams in the nation including Arkansas and Duke, along with 31 other teams. The Great American Festival takes place this Friday, Sept. 21.

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Champion Sports

SEPTEMBER 18, 2001 • PAGE 10

FOOTBALL

► 9/22 vs. Del. State, 3:30

VOLLEYBALL

► 9/18 at Va. Tech, 7 p.m.
► 9/22 at Birm. So., 7 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

► 9/19 at Marshall, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

► 9/22 at UNC Ash., TBA

CROSS COUNTRY

► 9/21 Great American Festival, TBA

WOMEN'S TENNIS

► 9/19 ITA Clay Court Championships



john farel

GO RED, WHITE AND BLUE

Last week sports took a back seat as our nation suffered the most horrifying of tragedies—a terrorist attack on two of our nation's greatest symbols of capitalism—the World Trade Center.

In addition the Pentagon was attacked. All totaled the number of deaths could exceed 5,000.

As news of the events came in sporting events across the nation began to be cancelled.

College Football, the NFL, Nascar, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer and the PGA Tour were among those cancelled.

For Major League Baseball it was the first non-labor related work stoppage since D-Day, and with word that it will continue through Sunday, it will be the longest since 1918, when World War I canceled the last month of the season.

If the NFL played this Sunday baseball may have begun earlier.

When baseball resumes Monday, all 30 teams will be sporting the American Flag, which will be stitched on each cap.

It's anybody's guess, whether Monday is too soon to restart the season, but in my opinion any earlier would have been too soon.

Not only would the player's focus be off, but it could be down right dangerous.

No one is sure these terrorist attacks are finished, and stadiums packed full of people are possible targets.

One thing is for sure, when baseball and other sports begin this week security will be increased.

The University of Michigan, which seats over 100,000, wants to ban flights within a certain radius of the stadium before its next game.

Other schools and teams will be taking precautions as well, such as banning backpacks in stadiums.

The tragedy creates other dilemmas as well. With football, they face the decision of whether or not to move back the Super Bowl. On the surface that sounds pretty simple. However, that causes a problem for the hotels, some of which have been booked a year in advance.

Baseball's problems are even more complex. They've decided to extend the season for a week, rather than go with a somewhat shortened season.

The main reason they chose to go with the shortened season is to give players and teams chasing records a legitimate shot.

What's the problem with that? The season already is ridiculously long. Now it will push the World Series into November. Should Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago or New York be involved, at the very least they'll be playing in frigid temperatures.

However, if we've learned anything from last week it's that these problems pale in comparison to the real life issues facing the families affected by the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

B'ball program developing character

By John Farel, sports editor

Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell spoke to Liberty University's men's basketball team on Thursday as part of the team's personal development program designed to take the players "beyond the basketball court."

Dr. Falwell spoke for about 15 minutes telling the team, "Because you're gifted athletes, you're leaders on campus."

He also stressed what it means to be a Christian university competing at the Division I level in all sports. "Be sure we reflect Christ, not just on this campus, but on other campuses," Falwell said.

Falwell also said: "You will have some days when you make a fool of yourself...but never, never quit."

The development program is something Coach Mel Hankinson has done before, but this is the first year he has instituted it at Liberty.

Hankinson said the program's immediate impact will be small scale but that will change. "The greater impact will be global impact, in the years to come."

In Hankinson's 25 years of the program he has seen his players become doctors and CEO's.

So why did Hankinson wait three years to implement the program? The coaching change after the '97 season set the program back two years, and after the 98-99 season the team was ranked dead last in the nation. Hankinson responded with a quick fix. "We then brought in a mix of junior college and transfer students...to plug the dyke," Hankinson said.

Now with a "bonnified" freshmen and sophomore class (of nine players) Hankinson has the team where he wants them. "This is the class, this group of freshmen and sophomores, you

invest all of our lives. Not that those other people weren't important. It's just that the timing and the development of the program."

Hankinson plans to have speakers who have succeeded in all areas of life, from business men, to

Cameron Mills implemented a level of understanding to these guys. He knows what it takes to perform individually and as a team.

-Flames assistant coach Mike Doig

spiritual leaders, to athletes.

Hankinson and assistant coach Mike Doig look for several things when deciding on the speakers.

Please see BASKETBALL, page 9



POSTPONED —The American Flag flies half mast over Williams Stadium on Saturday afternoon. The Flames, 0-2, were to take on Furman, however due to the tragedies of the week the game was cancelled.

Nation, LU put sports on hold

Commentary

By Wes Rickards, asst. sports editor

In the wake of the darkest day in American history, all but one of Liberty's athletic games were postponed or cancelled. In fact, the only match played was a Tuesday volleyball contest in which James Madison had already departed for Lynchburg before decisions could be made.

Sept. 11's macabre resonated throughout the sports world as most colleges and professional organizations agreed that the time was not right to resume play; that a time was needed to reflect and pay tribute to the families and

friends lost during the tragedies.

Major League ballparks were empty for the first non-labor related time since the D-Day, 1944. They will play the remainder of the season with American flags on their uniforms.

The Pittsburgh Steelers attended a memorial service for those who died on the hijacked United Airlines flight 93, innocent men and women who gave their lives to stop terrorists, and in turn saved more lives than we will ever know.

When sports fans think of heroes, we think of the time when John Elway refused to give up when the odds were against him. Maybe Bobby Thomson

hitting a home run off of Ralph Branca to send the Giants to the World Series. Or even Michael Jordan, who fought off and battled the flu along with the Utah Jazz during that one NBA Finals.

But they aren't heroes. The true heroes do not reside on the gridiron, on a baseball diamond or on the hardwood. They are instead the nameless, obscure from history and record books. But they are the ones who deserve our cheers.

Howard Cosell once said that "sports was the toy department of human life."

I think, in light of everything, we can all agree that this was not a time for play.

Tennis opens Fall season

Cragen leads the way with three wins

By Mattie Gordon, asst. sports editor

After only two weeks of practice, the Lady Flames tennis team opened their 2001-2002 season last weekend at the Mount St. Mary's Invitational.

The annual invitational was the first fall tournament that the Lady Flames tennis team has participated in. The tournament was a "great first time experience," Coach Larry Hubbard said.

The invitational had double elimination in singles and single elimination in doubles play. There were three flights. No. 1 and 2 players played in flight "A", No. 3 and 4 players played in flight "B" and in flight "C" were No. 5 and 6 players.

In flight "A" No. 1 Andreea Cotuna, won her first two matches before losing in the semi-finals to Loyola College, 6-2, 6-3.

Cotuna and No. 4 Brook Garman each won two singles matches and played in the semi-finals the next day.

No. 3 Alison Cho, finished with a record of 1-2, after losing in the first round, played in the semi-finals in the consolation draw.

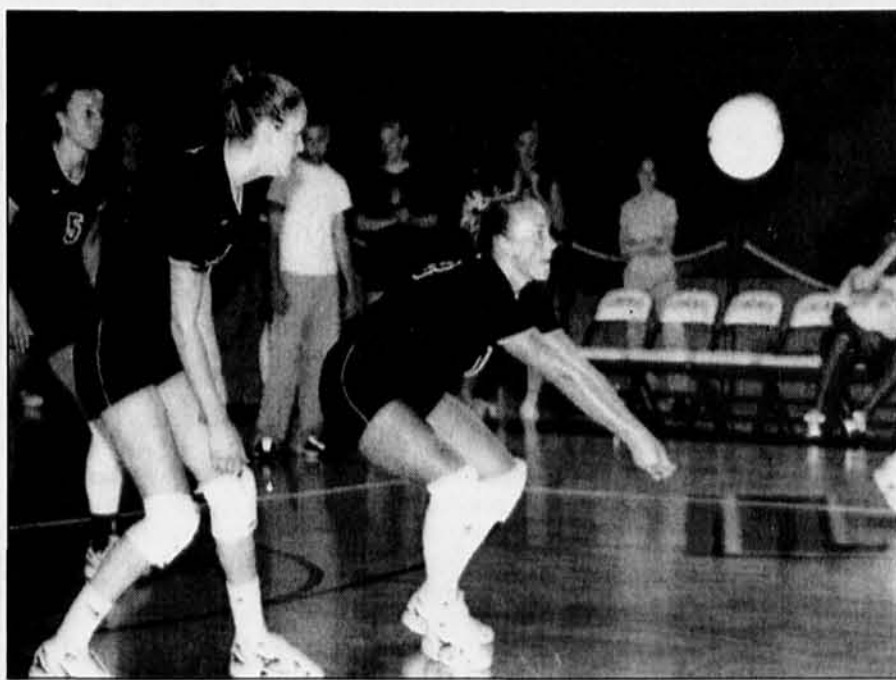
Freshmen, Carrie Cragen and Elizabeth Cleavenger played No. 5 and No. 6 in singles, respectively. Cleavenger won her first round then lost the second round in the "C" flight singles.

Cragen had the best singles record for the weekend at 3-1. She won three straight games and won the Consolation draw for the "C" flight.

Playing No. 1 in doubles was Cotuna who paired up with freshman Maria Solc. Cotuna and Solc lost the first round in flight "A."

This year's squad captains, No. 2, Cho and Garman won their first round but failed to win the semi-finals. No. 3, Cleavenger and Cragen won their first

Please see TENNIS, page 8



BUMP — Theresa Passamani bumps the ball back over the net earlier this season.

LU V-ball loses close one

Lady Flames comeback falls short

By Kate Boylan, reporter

The Lady Flames hosted their first home volleyball match of the season against James Madison University on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Liberty lost the match 3-2. The Flames lost the first two games, 30-25 and 30-22 before a surprising comeback, where they won both the third and fourth games with a score of 30-23. The Dukes, however, managed to win the last game 17-15, making them the victors of the match.

"It was no indication at all of what our girls can play like...there are

a lot of very bright spots in it for us this year," Coach Chris Phillips said when asked about the upcoming season for the Lady Flames.

"We expect to win the conference tournament and we expect to go to the NCA tournament."

Jennifer Belk, part of the new freshman talent, led the team with 18 kills, followed by Jessica Wilson, a senior, with 12 kills. Michelle Howland, another senior, led in assists with 40 recorded this match.

The Flames struggled mentally on Tuesday as they tried to focus on their game after the tragic events in the nation that morning. The coaches felt that they shouldn't have been put in that situation and it was unfortunate that they played.

Please see VOLLEBALL, page 8