9-3-1986

09-03-86 (The Liberty Champion, Volume 4, Issue 1)

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Students await decision on ministry’s move to Atlanta

By Marsha Wilde

The decision to move Liberty University and other parts of the Rev. Jerry Falwell's ministries to Atlanta in two to three years could come soon, according to Dr. Falwell.

"Obviously, we are at a crossroads where we must make a decision. I don't think anybody doubts that we need it," he said.

The Old-Time Gospel Hour board of directors and businessmen are studying the situation and plan to meet soon before the board determines a course of action.

In the meantime, Falwell plans to ask the Lynchburg City Council to petition the Virginia General Assembly for a special retroactive real estate tax exemption.

In a letter dated August 24, several area businessmen expressed concern about the move. Offering to help the ministry attain tax exemption status, they convinced board members to delay the decision.

Falwell explained that the board's actions are not hasty ones and added, "They had pretty well made the decision to move before it got to the local businessmen."

"Key at hand are the tax exemption for the Old-Time Gospel Hour and elimination of the ministry's 1.4 million dollar tax debt.

"The availability of teaching positions for education graduates and opportunities for student teachers are also factors.

"Once our board is sure these grievances are resolved, we will then sit down and do whatever we regard as a move," Falwell said.

Len Moisan, vice president for development and marketing, said that the move would have a definite economic impact, city officials were quoted as saying.

Louise Dudley, assistant general manager of River Ridge Mall development and marketing, said that Falwell's approach is sharp.

"I don't want what happened to Lynchburg to happen to Atlanta," Dudley said.

Unlike Lynchburg College and Randolph-Macon Women's College, Liberty University is owned by the OTGH. In order to receive tax-exemption status, Liberty must be designated as a university.

"We're excited about all he coming soon, according to Dr. Falwell."

By remaining under the OTGH's name, the university is controlled by the ministry. Falwell hopes this will continue so that the LU will remain "a Bible-believing, Christian university 100 years from now."

In addition, keeping property in the ministry's name also allows it to use the university as a security measure for future loans.

Board members recently discussed that the OTGH may qualify for a special tax exemption bill from the Virginia General Assembly which, if approved, could affect the board's final decision.

Also involved in the tax dispute is the relinquishment of the recently purchased Lynchburg Academy of Music. LU's executive committee voted to return the building and property to the academy's previous owners, the Friends of the Lynchburg Academy. The building did not meet the city's requirements for tax-free status.

Falwell purchased the theater last November at the advice of concerned citizens, to save the 81-year-old building from demolition. Plans originally called for a five-year, $5 million renovation project to get underway, but city officials believe that the project was too slow to ensure tax-exemption status.

Prior to the relinquishment of the theater, a decision had not been reached as to whether or not the theater would receive tax-exemption status.

Falwell stated in the Lynchburg News that he would continue to pastor at Thomas Road, start another church in Atlanta and fly back forth from the two congregations. However, if the ministries stay in Lynchburg, Falwell said he would consider buying the Craddock-Terry Shoe Corp. headquarters on the Lynchburg expressway to relocate Thomas Road Baptist Church.

"Personally, I hope we don't move," Falwell stated.

**Businessmen offer support**

By Denise Floyd

Recent announcements of possible relocation of the Old-Time Gospel Hour and Liberty University have sent area businessmen on a drive to help the Rev. Jerry Falwell obtain a tax-exemption which many local business leaders hope will block the ministry's move to Atlanta.

Several concern businessmen contacted the OTGH board Aug. 24 to delay its decision, giving them time, apparently, to persuade the board to reverse its decision. The move would make area businesses feel a definite economic impact, city officials were quoted as saying.

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**Concerts, activities set for fall semester**

Music lovers who missed the Sept. 30 concert featuring contemporary Christian artist Rosie Stoltzfus and Jonn Benward can hear Wayne Watson October 4 in the Multi-Purpose Center at Liberty University. Later in the month Roger Berland and Truth will host the Miss Liberty Pageant while Billy Lord will perform at the Country and Western Extravaganza. Scott Wesley Brown will entertain at the Christmas Festival.

"We really worked hard to find artists that were contemporary enough to meet the students' tastes yet within the boundaries of LU standards," Rev. Bufington, coordinator of student activities, said.

"We're excited about all the concerts," she continued, explaining that it was not difficult to find artists to visit LU. "They all want to come," she said enthusiastically.

In addition to the concert series, a variety of other activities are planned for the semester.

The LibertyFest Carnival will be held on Sept. 13 in the DeMoss Center Lot. The festival of "carnival-like activities" will include games, food, and prizes.

Weekly late-night events and the film festival will continue. Among the films scheduled this fall are "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Back to the Future" and "E.T."

Furthermore, outdoor enthusiasts can hike the Peaks of Otter, experience the Blue Ridge on horseback or go whitewater rafting while those interested in shaping up indoors may attend aerobics classes in the wrestling room.

Aside from the concerts, activities hot line, and exam survival kits may lie in the future.

"We offer so many that students have a choice to do what they enjoy best," Bufington concluded.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:**

This issue of The Liberty Champion is dedicated to the memory of our friend, David DeMoss, who went home to be with the Lord this summer.

David DeMoss contributed much to this school and he will be dearly missed by those who were touched by his life.
New teachers join LU faculty

The following new teachers have joined the faculty at Liberty University:

Dr. William Snoddy, professor of economics
Dr. Edgar Norton, associate professor of business
Corinne Livasy, instructor of business
William Pollard, associate professor of business
Dr. Jon Blake, associate professor of language/communications
Dr. Rebecca Carlisle, assistant professor of education
Janice DeLong, instructor of education
Dr. Karen Parker, assistant professor of education
David Locke, certified flight instructor
Dr. Brant Tolsma, associate professor of Mathematics and Physics
Dr. Evangelos Skoumbourdis, professor of Health and Physical Education
Dr. Jon Blake, associate professor of education
Dr. Karen Parker, assistant professor of education
David Locke, certified flight instructor

NAA meeting scheduled for Sept. 15

The first fiscal meeting of the Lynchburg chapter of the National Association of Accountants (NAA) will be Monday, Sept. 15, at the Sheraton Hotel.

The evening schedule will include a social hour from 6 to 6:45 p.m., dinner until 7:30 and a special speaker until 8:15. The cost will be $5 for students and $9 for faculty. The SGA office is located in the DeMoss Learning Center across from the bookstore. Please feel free to contact us.

Welcome to Liberty

The Student Government Association would like to welcome all students to the 1986-1987 school year. We are proud to have each one of you as a member of the student body.

Knowing that college can be frustrating socially, academically, and in other ways, we would like to offer our assistance to you in any way possible.

The SGA office is located in the DeMoss Learning Center across from the bookstore. Please feel free to contact us.

Your SGA officers—Mike Broomell, Jim Whitt, Dean DeToit, Belinda Dickinson, and Cristi Mahoney.

Fewer issues planned

As a result of budget cutbacks, fewer issues of The Liberty Champion will be published during the first semester. Students will receive a four-page issue every other week for the remainder of the semester in order to expand coverage second semester.

This, the Champion hopes, will be temporary situation. "Student body support of our advertisers will help us get back to editorials and features as well as news and sports," Denise Floyd, Champion editor-in-chief, stated.

"Our goal is to build a 16 to 20-page paper in the next few years. We’ve appreciated student body and faculty support and count on both groups to help us with advertiser support," Ann Wharton, newspaper supervisor, commented.

The opinions and views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Liberty University.
Two LU players hope to sign as free agents with Detroit Tigers

By Deborah Wood

Two LU baseball players have been chosen by the Detroit Tigers to sign on as free agents. Come spring, seniors Niles Creekmore and Pat Sipe are hoping to don new uniforms.

"I think both of these fellows deserve to play professional ball," former LU head baseball coach Al Worthington said. "Sipe hit the ball hard for four years. He may be the only university baseball player to have more home runs than strikeouts."

"Niles developed the split-finger pitch which made him a most outstanding pitcher," Worthington added. "I'm very happy for them both."

During their college careers, Creekmore pitched 22 wins to 8 losses while Sipe broke an LU record with 61 home runs and a career average of .368.

"Playing at Liberty and under Coach Worthington has been a great experience for me," Sipe commented. "I only hope future years in baseball will be as enjoyable."

Creekmore will travel to Tampa, Fla., for a week of final tryouts, and Sipe will go to Old Dominion University in Virginia Beach for the deciding swing.

"I played only one year of high school baseball and my coach didn't like me," Creekmore said. "I had never pitched before I became a walk-on at Liberty....It's been a battle but I kept going. Now it's time for my hard work to pay off," he added.
Coaches join athletic staff

By Deborah Wood

Head baseball coach Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankee great, heads the roster of new coaches grasping the tracks, fields and courts of Liberty University this year.

Richardson will be replacing former head baseball coach Al Worthington, who gave up his role as coach in order to concentrate fully on the job of LU Athletic Director.

Other coaches include assistant baseball coach Dave Pastors, who played and coached under Richardson at Coastal Carolina University before coming to LU to pursue a master’s degree in education.

A familiar face will be Mike Good, former LU softball coach, who is coaching the women’s basketball team assisted by Sue Kelly. Kelly hails from the staff of The College of William and Mary and is also head coach of the volleyball team.

Wrestler and two-year coach of Athletics in Action, Don Shuler, will impart wisdom on Liberty wrestling mats while Indiana University graduate and member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, Jeff Mossburg, takes on the job of assistant athletic trainer.

Making a move after years of coaching at Campbell University in N.C. is Brant Tolsma, who is head coach of men’s track and field.

Ohio native Rick Burby is a new assistant men’s basketball coach.

Burby comes to Liberty from Sanford University in Alabama where he also served as assistant basketball coach. Prior to working at Sanford, Burby was head basketball coach at Worthington Christian High School, Worthington, Ohio.

LU cheerleaders win top honors

By Dave Dentel

The LU cheerleaders won applause before the school year started when they were recognized as the best NCAA Division 2 squad at the annual National Coaches Association (NCA) clinic held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Aug. 9-16.

LU cheerleaders were selected for the “Award of Excellence” from a field of more than 66 squads and 1000 individual cheerleaders. This was the first award earned by LU cheerleaders in their history of attending NCA workshops.

Bev Buffington, the squad sponsor, said the award was a great honor and added, “I see a potential in this group I’ve never seen in a squad at Liberty.”

However, aside from making try-out standards more difficult, Buffington said she has done nothing extraordinary to train a higher caliber team.

By winning, the squad qualified to compete in the NCA Division 2 Collegiate Cheerleader National Championship to be held in January.

The group is comprised of seven men and seven women. Of the men, four are returning yelleaders, while only three of the women have cheered for LU before.

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