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First game in newly renovated Williams Stadium

Family finds grace after brutal murder

Newlywed finds forgiveness for her grandfather's murderers and expresses love for the community one month after his tragic death

Jonathan Parker
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Eleke Gahagan fondly recalls her grandfather smiling and dancing during her wedding last month.

"He was having a great time," Leslie Gahagan fondly recalls of her grandfather, George Baker III, at her Sept. 4 wedding in downtown Lynchburg.

LAST DANCE — Leslie Gahagan dances with her grandfather, George Baker III, at her Sept. 4 wedding in downtown Lynchburg.

IMG_9657

"You need to be able to tell a company why they should hire you," Ashby said. "Now it's not about how the company needs you, it's about what you are going to bring to the table for that company."
Mid-term elections

Who will hold Congress when the dust clears?

KATE BELL
kbell2@liberty.edu

With 32 days until the election things are very tense in Washington, DC. People are very charged, and now scandals are breaking daily. Republicans are trying to focus on the economy. Democrats are trying to portray Republican and tea party candidates as extreme or even nutters. Washington’s Scott Whitlock of the Media Research Center said:

The significance of the 2010 mid-term elections is that every congresswoman is up for re-election. This means that after the fall of the Republican party the number of women in Congress will have doubled. It is predicted that Republicans will take over the House of Representatives. If Republicans win the Senate, then they can control the investigation of the last two years. This could be very dangerous because the Republicans are trying to focus on the economy. Democrats are trying to focus on the tea party’s lack of focus on the economy. It is predicted that the Republicans will win the Senate. The significance of this is that if the Republicans win the Senate, then they can control the investigation of the last two years. This could be very dangerous because the Republicans are trying to focus on the economy. Democrats are trying to focus on the tea party’s lack of focus on the economy. It is predicted that the Republicans will win the Senate.

LIBERTY CHAMPION

490 ARTS & CULTURE

LIBERTY CHAMPION

984 UNIVERSITY BLVD. LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24502

Amanda Sullivan

Dominique McKay

Recession adjusted to 3.1%

I have not enough money to pay for two more years of school, but I cannot do that. I have no money for rent or food. Some students have decided to take matter into their own hands. If they cannot find a job why not create one? Ashley said that he is starting his own company and that the government creation was part of the reason for doing this. "That’s one reason I started my own company—because it’s needed," he said. "We need real startups, whether the governments small business friendly or not. Ashley has big aspirations for his company. He intends to start with advertising and design and then eventually branch out into several different fields. His website www.askoly.com explains some of his ideas and the logos for future divisions. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the “break of the moment” was June 2009, and the economy has been on the mend ever since. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows unemployment has steadily improved and steady jobs have been on the rise. With many people like Ashley taking risks and starting businesses, perhaps students will soon have an easier time getting hired and finding school bills funder.

AGAMS is a news reporter.

CROSS-REFERENCES

In the previous issue of the Liberty Champion, there were several factual errors in “Seeking a Safe Haven. Salamanders move to find refuge from harsh weather.” In addition, the article misstates the benefits of the film “Oz.” The statement that the film benefited $320,000. This number is incorrect and should say $320,000.
Murder in Lynchburg is not common, according to City Council Member H. Cary George Baker’s murder early last month was an exception, he said. “(Downtown) is crime free with the exception of Mr. Baker,” Cary said. “There have been a few minor incidents, but not anything that would give you cause for your personal safety.”

Liberty alumnus Robin Dimond co-owns Robin Alexander’s Restaurant downtown. For the first week after the Sept. 5 murder, her business declined. “The police can’t be on every street corner, but they were at the crime scene immediately,” Cary said. He hopes that the recent murder is “isolated,” he said. “I hope future events don’t prove me wrong,” Cary said.

Local groups proactively review safety concerns on a regular basis, Cary said. Senior managers of the city council, members of the police and fire department and neighborhood watch groups meet and discuss concerns. “That’s our way of reaching out and it helps build support,” Cary said.

“City leaders say downtown is ‘safe’”

Both Dimond and Cary applaud the Lynchburg Police Department for monitoring the downtown business district and other parts of the city. “The police can’t be on every street corner, but they were at the crime scene immediately,” Cary said. He hopes that the recent murder is “isolated,” he said. “I hope future events don’t prove me wrong,” Cary said.

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Opinion

Duke University controversy

College Republicans support group loses charter, funding

ABBY ARMBRUSTER abramster@dailytarheel.com

Duke University's College Republicans student group faces university de-chartering and is under risk of being funded by the removal of its president during the spring semester.

The student senate of Duke University recently voted 20-3 to de-charter the College Republicans, according to Duke University's Chronicle.

The ruling comes after an extensive internet search by Dr. Rachel Goddard, the acting on behalf of the school.

The remaining College Republicans members were left with a series of rigid statements, including failure to: call meeting and attempting to club decisions.

What is more shocking than the allegations of Robert's impeachment is the lack of news coverage on the topic. When Liberal University officially did not endorse the College Republicans students, it was covered by Newsweek, CBS News and CNN.

The lack of coverage leads one to believe that there could be an agenda by the media, either for acceptance of gays in leadership or a hate against the College Republicans — the former not being likely.

The student group, Duke, is indirectly showing its acceptance towards gay rights. Although it does not change one's leadership due to their sexual orientation, the schools response declares its acceptance of gay and lesbian students on campus.

While the first line between existence and acceptance is walked daily, media should always be on the lookout to reduce ignorance on the topic.

The lack of coverage by national media causes these types of questions to they: what they stand on politics as well.

Armbuster is the opinion editor.

Duke University controversy

Response to 'China to lift one child ban'

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From DEE

Wouldn't it be nice if fairy tales were real? 'She was a princess.' I hate to burst your bubble, but in my time, there were no "princesses."

By doing what is right, the future can be just as bright.

Dear Editor,

Recently the Champion (Sept. 21 issue) posed an opinion piece on the one-child ban in China. There were several portions of that article that I felt needed to be addressed. I would like to express the following statement that the opinions editor made.

She wrote, "Now, China is thinking of their strategy, since the forecast predicted 400 million births since 1978." To this I say, respectfully what a beautiful capitalist operation for abortion. It is the prevention of 400 million babies, it is the slaughter of 400 million babies. It is sadden that your opinion editor has bought into the reproductive style of pro-choice language, which is why their style then, actually is rather flat.

The enemy of a pre-born child does not want women to know that is the enemy is wanting to hide behind the title of champain for a woman's right to choose or "the savior of the world from overpopulation." On an aside note, evaporation is a lie that is used to defeat abortionists — especially since the morally overtone ones. The American human life Charlie that we continue to repre­

derate then we destroy ourselves, we are not replenishing couples.

In addition, if it is true, why should we not start with China? For the Chinese, any less valuable than our precious Western society? Can we honestly print articles that post for acceptance of gays in leadership or a hate against the College Republicans - the former not being likely.

The newspaper is giving much to the topic, as more and more cases of intolerance have surfaced in the nation.

On an aside note, overpopulation is a lie that meets the eye. We do not need to find a solution to overpop­ulation, we need to pray for the world of people. I say that we should be praying to peaceful and love, the Chinese government has inflicted on her children. We do not need to find a solution to overpop­ulation, we need to pray for the world of people.

God bless,

Respectfully,

Tessa S. Magee, 13

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Respectfully,
Kim Jong-il picks son as North Korea successor

ANDREW GULA

The youngest son of Kim Jong-il, the leader of North Korea, was promoted to a military general on Sept. 27, a clear signal that he is to succeed his father as the country's leader.

Kim Jong-un has, for his entire life, remained one of the most elusive people on the planet. Only a photograph of him has ever been released, and it was taken in his adolescence. From his age to unknown — he is believed to be about 27 or 28, although there is no way of proving the educated guesses.

"No one knows who he looks like, but it is certain that he indeed exists and is slated to be the next leader," professor at Seoul National University's Global Security Project said, according to AP-News.

The moves of Kim Jong-un to promote came prior to a gathering of the ruling Workers' Party in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on Monday, Sept. 27. This seemingly sudden move by Kim Jong-un dictates his third and youngest son as his heir.

Daniel Pinkston, a senior analyst on Korea at the Crisis Group, found the idea of pancreatic cancer difficult to believe. He explained that the information was so sketchy that any definitive diagnosis is "a little odd."

"This kind of information would not be shared easily or casually," he said. "It would explain a lot of things that may be going on internally: the rapid leadership change, the leadership succession."

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JENNIFER SHOFFNER

Congress recently had a very unusual yet well-known speaker. Comedian Stephen Colbert gave a testimony on migrant labor issues during a hearing of Congress referred to as "Protecting American Harvest!" Sept. 24. The hearing was for the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, according to the Huffington Post.

Colbert testified with United Farm Workers president Arturo Rodriguez at his side. Colbert's testimony was based on his experience with UFW's "Take Our Jobs" campaign, which urged Americans to take the job of farm labor for a day according to CBS News.

Perhaps the concept is old-fashioned, but in today's increasingly profane culture, propriety must be preserved.

Congress is certainly made a splash, feedback on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," an Alexandria-based analyst said according to the Washington Post.

"When things really get tough — perhaps the concept is old-fashioned, but in today's increasingly profane culture, propriety must be preserved," the analyst said. "It's a little odd."
Faith strengthens Crossman in cancer battle

JOHNATHAN PARKER

Daniel Crossman’s hospital room was a revolving door of friends four weeks ago. As Crossman, a sophomore, waited on test results for what he thought were noncancerous growths from his left testicle, he lived for the Lord.

When Crossman was dining, doctors came to him with the diagnosis: lymphoblastic leukemia.

“Too say that I wasn’t scared would be a lie,” Crossman said. “I didn’t know what to feel. However, it is in these exact times, when we have no idea what to do, that God works in mighty and breathtaking ways.”

Crossman prayed and began making Palm Sunday plans.

“It’s an incredible passage that asks the question, ‘If God is good, why did this happen?’” Crossman said. “Psalm 118:22 says, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.’ I can’t say I’m a master of this, but I do believe that as a result of this experience, my faith has grown and so has my understanding of God.”

His blood filled his room. He spent the weekend in the hospital, waiting on test results:

“I am very blessed compared to many other cancer patients. My type of cancer is very treatable and curable,” Crossman said.

Crossman, and his mother, were staying with relatives in Danville, Calif., for the last few weeks of chemotherapy treatments, which includes taking “too many medications,” doctors inject two drugs into a major artery weekly.

“As expected, Crossman was a bit overwhelmed. He has been an example to guys his age and younger brothers, his friends, Miller said. “God used these tragedies just to glorify Him. That should be our ultimate purpose to bring honor to Him.”

Crossman plans to return to Liberty next fall and may take online classes this spring.

“Once I read this,” Crossman said, “I didn’t know what to say. I have never been as close to the Lord, no matter the circumstances.”

Doctors inject two drugs into a major artery weekly.

“Faith strengthens Crossman in cancer battle”

Ruling Liberty:

How the rules have changed since 1971

CRYSTAL HEAVNER AND SARAH STOCKLAGER

Although students sometimes gawk and gripe about the rules at Liberty University, policies have remained remarkably consistent since the school’s formation—to make life easier for students.

The first statement of the first Liberty rule book was: “Attending Lynchburg Baptist College is a privilege, and anyone who possesses it and will keep to the policies and rules of the college to reflect the spiritual life that we require of all students and their life-style that you will be allowed by you graduate from Lynchburg Baptist College,” townes said.

The set of policies was not dubbed “The Set of Policies” or “The Set of Rules.” But it is now.

Today attendance for Convocation is required three days a week. However, the Liberty Way for the 1974 to 1975 school year read: “Students are required to attend Sunday morning and evening services at Thomas Road Baptist Church and Wednesday evening services. Students must also attend all chapel sessions.”

According to the 1974 to 1975 edition of the Liberty Way, men were required to wear a tie and professional clothing from before breakfast to bedtime every day and no long hair or facial hair was allowed. Women were to wear dresses and a hat, and the dresses had to tall below two inches above the middle of the knee.

“Some of the policies or house rules have changed, but not the rules dealing with biblical or ethical offenses,” Vice President for Executive Projects and Media Relations and Campus Pastor Johnnie Moore said.

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Creation Hall floods...again

MELINDA ZOSH
mzosh@liberty.edu

Senior Sammy Spillar was walking through the back hallway of DeMoss two weeks ago, on the way to study in the biology department.

She had just stepped out of the sudden rainstorm when a familiar face greeted her.

"I saw one of the professors, and I said 'This weather is crazy,'" Spillar said.

Then the professor pointed farther down the hall, and Spillar suddenly realized that instead of escaping the rain, she was about to walk right into it, she said.

"He said, 'I haven't seen the hallway yet,'" Spillar said. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh,' because I forgot the last time that it happened."

DeMoss Hall flooded twice during the summer and again Wednesday Sept. 22 just before 6 p.m., Director of Creation Studies David DeWitt said.

"During the summer, everything (on one side of the hall) was ruined, because there was no one here to salvage it," DeWitt said.

"When people saw the flooding this time, both faculty and students rushed to help," DeWitt said. He called LUPD and building services as soon as he saw the flooding.

"There was no way that I could have done this alone," DeWitt said. "A whole slew of students were walking through and said 'Can I help? What can I do?'

Spillar cleaned up the wet papers and models that biology students re-created after the first ones were destroyed.

"It is hard to describe the damage that's been done," Spillar said.

"Her paper mache giraffe was ruined, along with dozens of other similar paper mache models and papers, she said.

"It still kind of looks like a giraffe but the water has done a lot of damage," Spillar said.

Senior Nathan Hubbard, who is also studying biology and pre-med, immediately helped clear the shelves, and one thought was running through his head, he said.

"Oh no, here we go again," Hubbard said.

He saw the damage this summer and felt frustrated for the alumni and students who dedicated hours of volunteer time every week arranging the shelves, he said. Spillar often worked until 3 a.m. setting them up.

"It's just disheartening to have something that looks great and... can glorify God and is just ruined," Hubbard said.

Two alumni donated $350 combined to items that are now ruined, Hubbard said.

"It is extremely discouraging for them to see their work ruined," Hubbard said.

"We could come in tomorrow and seeing this could be completely soaked," Spillar said.

"The creation museum is for both Christians, to attract them to learning more about creation, and to defend the basic beliefs that we have as creationists and Christians," Hubbard said.

As students were placing black garbage bags over the empty shelves, DeWitt pondered on the way in which the items within those shelves were destroyed.

"It's quite ironic to have a creation museum destroyed by a flood," DeWitt said.

According to the Director of Field Operations Scott Starnes, the issue will be resolved by adding a gutter system and a base coat of uniflex which helps seal the roof. Work was scheduled to begin Monday.

"ZOSH is the Editor in Chief."
**New Dining Options for Students on South Campus**

**ALLYSSA HINCKLE**

Students living on Campus South now have new dining options. Campus Pastry Chef Johnnie Moore announced in Monday morning’s Convocation that two new vendors will be added to the Circle, a picnic area that seats about 15 people.

"There are two new food vendors for students to choose from," said Johnnie Moore, announced in Monday morning’s Convocation. "There are two new food vendors for students to choose from," said Johnnie Moore.

The two vendors will be different sub-vendors, including Domino’s.

The vendors will open Wednesday, May 5, at 11 a.m. and will be open Monday through Friday, with dinner hours from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The vendors can be found on the back side of Pines 7, with a seating area of picnic tables that can seat about 15 people. The vendors take Flames Cash, as well as cash and credit.

**HINCKLE is a news writer.**

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**Honor and Family — (Top left) SGT David Porter presents his company colors at the 1-116th homecoming celebration. (Top right) Porter marrying his wife, Tammy Thompson. (Bottom) Porter with his wife and two youngest daughters, Alexis and Hadassah at the battalion homecoming at the Lynchburg armory.**

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**Heewett is the news editor.**
CRUISE CONTROL — Chris Summers gets by Savannah State defenders with a little blocking help from his friends.

FLAMES IGNITE UNDER FIREWORKS

Flames light up scoreboard, fireworks lit the sky

NATE BROWN

The Liberty Flames improved their overall 2010 record with an impressive victory over the Fighting Camels of Campbell University Friday night. The Flames rode a dominating offensive outpouring, one that set the stage for a 25-7 victory over the Flames. The game ended with a bang as fireworks lit the sky following the final whistle.

THE NEW PRESS TOWER

The construction of the press tower began in January and ended on the ground level. The new press tower is five stories tall, featuring a new press area on the ground floor. The new press tower and press area are scheduled to be used during the 2010 football season.

EXPLOSIVE WIN

NICE 'HANS' — German tight end Matthias Wrede enjoys his first career reception and touchdown Saturday.

Brown and the hands of Chris Summers. Over 70 percent of Liberty's offense came through the air, contrary to what Rocco and his staff expected at the beginning of the season. "In order for us to do what we have set out to do, we have to have [balance]. We have to have that run game. We have to have the play action pass," Rocco said. Liberty was almost completely symmetrical against Savannah State, throwing for 279 yards and rushing for 288. Holloway enjoyed 140 yards on the ground for the Flames, a first for the red-shirt sophomore.

The new press tower and press area are scheduled to be used during the 2010 football season.

New additions to stadium are a "huge leap"

KELLY MARVEL

The grand re-opening of the newly expanded Arthur S. Williams Stadium ended with a bang Saturday night. A 15-minute movie lit the sky following the final whistle.

The lights are bright and the stands full for the grand re-opening of the newly expanded Arthur S. Williams Stadium.
Jennifer Sydnor shrugs off divided what they need to be the extra work. Her priority with two squads may sound an all-girls squad. Working of thousands of people sup­ close to the game and in front ami workouts are two days a and weight lifting sessions a Liberty University cheer­ cheerleaders. Are cheerlead­ willianis Stadium. the end of the fourth quarter Saturday, welcoming football once again to is ensuring each team is pro­ tases, cheers and chants. Reg­ ter athletes, or not athletes? "My favorite part about Spirit spreadin, crowd pleasin’ and Bible verses are often giv­ Andrews said. "Jenny has re­ "Sydnor's favorite part to that standard," Chelsea Andrews said. "Jenny has su­ Chelsea Andrews said. "Jenny has su­ Sydnor said. "I think it is so imperative to have two teams so the pro­ "Sydnor knows the poten­ Sydnor grew up as a gymn­ but upon coming to Liberty, she started cheer­ She understands that cheerleaders do not generally have an outstanding reputa­ but she aims to assist her squad in implementing the skills of God’s will in their everyday lives. "Thus, my main mission is to build a team of athletes that are unified in Christ," Sydnor said. Notes of encouragement and Bible verses are often given­ ing athletes support and are praying for them. "Sydnor's constant par­ about coaching, at Liberty is forming relationships with her athletes. "I am so blessed to be able to work with each of these athletes," coach Jen­ coach Jason Tackaberry said. "They are such a blessing to me." Community involvement is an important aspect for the EU atmosphere of cheerleaders. Liberty cheerleaders are as­ with the PACE program, the Hill City Youth Cheerleaders, and the Chris­ "Andrew Jordan is proud to be a part of the Liberty cheer squad and consider the team to be a family. "I’m definitely not high school, I’m in university, and I’m actually really cool that you are a male cheerleaders," Jordan said. "People actually show you that you are able to throw girls in the air and do cartwheels." Jerry Frankel. The Flames open the floor with fireworks of one sort and the Dan­ to the 49-yard line. Three plays and one punt by specialist Derek Williams, seven punishing tackles, 2.5 for losses. and rushing for 54, contributing four to­ briners. Mike Brown throwing for 231 yards and five touchdowns, and 350 yards of total offense. 54, contributing four to­ briners. Mike Brown throwing for 231 yards and five touchdowns, and 350 yards of total offense. As each show has its own memorable number, so did this show have its num­ at the U.S. Olympic handball team in 1992. 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She still holds three volleyball records and two women’s basketball records. Bream was an alter­ The Flames open conference play Oct. 9 against Charleston Southern University for their homecoming game. "BROWN is the asst. sports editor."
SWIMMING continued from BI

"We did great today, but we need to work on getting depth for our team," Coach Pete Stellenberger said.

In two individual events, sophomore Brye Haestino finished first in the 50-yard freestyle and won the 100-yard freestyle events. Freshman Lindsey Romkes won the 200-yard freestyle and placed second in the 50-yard backstroke.

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Throughout most of the events the Fighting Camels placed second and third, picking up crucial points that eventually helped them to win meet.

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JOE COOL — Forward Joe Smith and the Flames battled against Davenport Friday and Saturday nights in close contests. The Flames lost Oakland University Oct. 8 and 9.

"We took too many penalties," McCombe said. "That’s nothing else to it." Boschman said.

Saturday started out much the same way with an early short-handed Davenport goal and some fumbles from Liberty. The next goal was scored by Davenport’s Junior Smith at the beginning of the second period. Bobby Collar scored a short-handed goal for Davenport at the 10:36 mark.

Greg Jensen added a short-handed goal midway through the second period, keeping his team in the game in the third period. Tyler Forbes closed out Davenport’s victory in the second period, keeping his team in the game. In the third period, Liberty scored twice for Davenport, once on even strength and the other on the power play. With 13:37 gone by on the clock, Liberty’s offense was finally slowed by Davenport. Josh Cope added a short-handed goal shortly after to gain the lead once more. McCombe added a short-handed goal to avoid the penalty box. Tying the game at 3-3, Liberty’s team has connected all of its goals over the course of the weekend.

Davenport scored early in the first period Friday, starting off the weekend as pictured. Liberty remained even until one by Boschman scored with 50 seconds left in the period.

McCombe was not able to fulfill all of its goals over the course of the weekend, dropping one until Boschman scored a second game. Liberty’s Greg Jensen returned this weekend, as did many other players as well. LXwenport’s defense was busy. "They’re fast. [They] have five freshman on their roster, so it was a bit of a guessing game to put the puck in the net. We want to see what we can do and how we can improve," Bennett said.

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Scaremare shares the gospel in a fun way

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People from all over central Virginia will soon be lining up for a haunted house experience unlike any other. Liberty University’s Center for Youth Ministry will put on its annual Scaremare function opening Oct. 14, taking a pagan holiday like Halloween and turning it around to glorify God.

According to Scaremare supervisor Mike Aldridge, Scaremare was started as a ministry focused on seeing people accepting Christ as their savior through showing them the reality and impact of death.

This year’s ‘House of Death’ features a variety of rooms depicting different death scenes that everyone can somehow relate to. At the very end of the tour, the gospel is presented to the group of people, giving everybody the opportunity to hear the good news.

“It will probably be the best bonding experience for a group of friends to go through,” Aldridge said. “To lead of get scared together and kind of pull together and have a great time, all with a specific purpose, to hear more about Christ.”

According to Scaremare’s Facebook page, it has attracted the love of many since Oct. 12, 1972, and it is still going strong. The Scaremare staff has been working on this year’s event since the beginning of the summer, according to Aldridge.

Hundreds of Liberty students attended what is known as the Scaremare rally in September for the opportunity to fulfill their Christian service with this ministry, using roughly 200 volunteers every night to run the event. This past Saturday the volunteers participated in their first work day with over 75 students helping to clean up the surrounding area.

“(Scaremare) has given me the opportunity to share the gospel in a fun and active way,” sophomore Valerie Claros said. “It’s better than scaring people in the name of Jesus!”

Mike Aldridge, Scaremare was started like Halloween and turning it around to raise money, yet the amount the center received was more than four times what had been raised in past benefits. Previous benefits were by invitation only, but this year’s benefit was the first made open to the public to allow the Lord to bring the public to increase awareness about their ministry.

“We made the event open to the public to allow the Lord to bring the people he wanted to the center,” Director of Development Stephanie McBride said. “The center not only received monetary donations, but also pledges for computer equipment, new doors for their center and design work on their website, according to McBride. The benefit also helped to raise awareness in the Central Virginia area about their work.

‘Last year we raised $68,000, so this year we were huge, above and beyond what we’ve ever raised,’ McBride said. ‘It’s almost unheard of to have only 130 people at the event and to raise $250,000 from that. We totally give the Lord credit for that, it wasn’t anything we did on our own.

The BRPC has other fundraisers that run throughout the year, such as the Food Lion Shop Boomerang, an ongoing drive where churches and organizations sell new products to raise money for the BRPC.

“We just want people to know that we are here, not just for the purpose of volunteering but here for them to serve as godly guidance,” Director of Development Stephanie McBride said. “We want people to know that we are here to help our community outreach since 1972.

Blessings for the Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center

TIFFANY EDWARDS
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The Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center (BRPC) received $250,000 in donations at their annual benefit Sept. 14. The benefit featured internationally acclaimed author of “The Prayer of Jabez,” Bruce Wilkinson. Roughly 130 people attended the event, yet the amount the center received was more than four times what had been raised at past benefits. Previous benefits were by invitation only, but this year’s benefit was the first made open to the public to allow the Lord to bring the public to increase awareness about their ministry.

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THE NICEST KIDS IN TOWN — Senior Sarah Seaman sashays through the production as super-sized freedom-fighting teen Tracy Turnblad. Tracy, along with friends Link, Penny and Seaweed, fight for racial integration on "the Corny Collins show" in 1960s Baltimore.

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Hair spray holds its own in the new Tower Theater

The beat at the new Liberty Tower Theater can’t be stopped in its debut production "Hairspray." The play, starring senior Sarah Seaman as the lead, follows plussized heroine Tracy Turnblad as she obsessed over heartthrob Link Larkin, played by junior Caleb Hughes. She fights for integration in turbulent 1960s Baltimore and climbs her way to stardom on the hit teen TV series "The Corny Collins Show."

The story starts with an average day in Tracys life — waking up, going to school, hanging out with her best friend Penny Pingleton, getting in trouble for the size of her voluminously teased hair and drooling over "The Corny Collins Show." Tracy skips school to audition as a dancer on the show and is turned down by the shows racist producer Velma Von Tussle, the mother of Larkins girlfriend and Tracys nemesis Amber.

Tracy lands in detention for skipping school and meets Seaweed, son of famous deejay Motormouth Maybelle, and she also meets other black students, who teach her a few dance moves. She uses the moves to introduce herself to Corny Collins himself. He hires her on the spot, leading her to stardom, a plus-size modeling gig and even bigger hair. Her appearance on the show causes controversy as she battles to integrate "The Corny Collins Show," which leads to love, jail time and explosive song and dance numbers.

The show also features sophomore Taamu Wuya as Seaweed, senior Ronald Brady as Corny Collins and senior Kathryn Williams as Penny Pingleton. Being a part of the cast in the play’s opening production is a big event for theater students.

"As an actor, you rarely get to be part of an opening of a brand new theater because it happens every 30 plus years," Director Linda Nell Cooper said. "We could not have done this in the Lloyd Auditorium. Because of the new theater that we are able to (present Hairspray) so we did not have to adjust the play at all."

Liberty is the first college in Virginia to perform Hairspray, primarily because of the versatility of the new theater.

"RUN AND TELL THAT" — The fictitious "Corny Collins Show" was based on an actual live-TV dance series based in Baltimore, "The Buddy Deane Show." The TV show featured teenagers from local high schools showing off the hippest and most popular dance moves of the 1960s.

♦ EDWARDS is the feature editor.

Hairspray opened Sept. 24 and runs until Oct. 9. An additional showing has been added on Thursday, Oct. 7, all other showings are sold out. Tickets are on sale for $7 for students, $10 for faculty and staff and $12 for general admission. See the Liberty Theatre Arts website for more information.
Students 'Write Their Hearts' at Writer’s Conference

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Liberty University hosted the 7th biennial Writer’s Conference on Sept. 23-24, 2010. About 100 people attended the event.

"This is the 7th Writer’s Conference sponsored jointly by the Integrated Learning Resource Center and the English Department. It has been offered every two years beginning in 1997,” Co-Chair of the Writer’s Conference and Head of ILRC Public Services Rachel Schindel said.

The theme of the conference was "Write Your Heart," according to Schindel. Speakers at the conference included Bruce Wilkinson, who challenged adults and students to evaluate the purpose of their own writing. David Van Drie, a literary agent who taught writers what publishers are looking for in a manuscript, and Andy Schaefer, who taught practical ways to edit a manuscript and write query letters that publishers will notice. Other speakers included John Riddle, Michelle Mendel-Avery, Donna Dunn, Dawn Stephens, Jamie Conner and Ruth Leftiga. The combined purpose of the conference was to speak to the writer’s hearts and provide practical tips to jumpstart careers.

What the conference team hopes to do through their conferences is to help students and faculty who want to write to get out of their textbooks as fast as they could present an idea— or buy one-on-one time with an author, incorporated 15-minute sessions throughout the day. The goal would be to not only create plays that are culturally relevant to the citizens, but also to make sure that the work matches the type of publisher that they would be interested in working with. The conference team hopes to help students and faculty who want to write to meet one-on-one with an author to discuss their own "Write Your Heart." According to Schindel, the conference team hopes to jumpstart careers through their conferences and to "Write Your Heart."
**Running the race: Liberty Mountain Trail Series**

**BETSY ABRAHAM**
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Student Activities will be hosting its first race in the Liberty Mountain Trail Series bright and early the morning of Sunday, Oct. 9 at Camp Hydeaway.

The Deep Hollow Half-Marathon and 5k will give students, faculty, staff and members of the community the ability to test their endurance as they run the miles of the Liberty Mountain Trail System.

Those doing the half-marathon will begin at 8:45 a.m. and the 5k will start at 9:30 a.m. Both races start at Camp Hydeaway and will wind through the Liberty Mountain Trail System properties.

The half-marathon is 13.1 miles long, and covers the entire Liberty Mountain Trail System properties. Runners will also do a 3.1 mile loop followed by a 10 mile loop around the perimeter of the property.

The 5k serves to complement the half-marathon and a 3.1 miles. Runners doing this race will take a trail road called Fishel Road down to the Smoother Centre. After replenishing themselves at an aid station, runners will return following the same path.

Josh Woten, the associate director of Student Activities, says that having the option to choose between two routes gives more runners the chance to experience marathon running.

"The idea with the half-marathon is to get a lot of people out to the event to see what it's like. They may not be ready to run a half-marathon, but they can run a 5k. So it's more motivation for them to test next year the half-marathon," Woten said.

Yeoman says that the race always brings out a very diverse group of runners, ranging in all levels of experience.

"It's not usually your stereotypical runners, who you imagine would be running something like this. It's really different types of people," Yeoman said. "The similarity between everyone is that they're up for an outdoor challenge or experience which this race definitely provides.

Sophomore Jessica Graham has been running for two years, but this will be her first half-marathon experience. "I thought it would be a nice starter race," Graham said. "A few of my friends ran last year and encouraged me to do it!"

Sorority Gamma Theta uses the race as a training for a bigger marathon she is doing with the Marine Corps later this month. As an experienced trail runner, she says she enjoys the "unique experience that it provides."

"I love getting a personal record and more about finishing and making friends along the way," Gerber said. "Whether you're training for a bigger marathon or just doing it for fun, the experience is what makes a good race. The half-marathon is one of the best," senior Jessica Jones said.

**EDWARDS is the feature editor.**

**MASSEY is the assistant opinion editor.**