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Pro-life organization faces opposition

By SARAH POLLAK

Liberty University's pro-life outreach, Students Active for Life and Truth (SALT), continues to pursue every Saturday morning in front of the Lynchburg Planned Parenthood on Longhorn Road even though its presence leads to more finding in abortions.

SALT, formerly Students Active Against Abortion, is a ministry to educate the community about abortion and the morality of life. This fall, the group began a new campaign to recruit new members by distributing Flying Order with the Liberty Raven to stop the plowings.

"People in the area who support choice have pledged everything from $25 per picket per day," said Jean MacCallum, the Community Development Coordinator of Lynchburg Planned Parenthood. "These funds go to help poor women." She added that the group will continue to do this program a few weeks ago when they were contacted by an employer of Planned Parenthood. "They said they and the organization stood firm in their belief that picketing is still important.

SALT said that in order to vote in Virginia or not. In order to vote in their home state. However, students encountered problems ceiling their rights as voters in Virginia because they lacked a domicile, effectively removing them from the voting process in two states.

In addition to the inconvenience, Spencer-Read also said that any person that lives in an individual is not a resident of Virginia and unvaccinations or asks that person in the registration process can be found guilty of fraud.

"If someone wants to register in Lynchburg, it will be impossible," Spencer-Read repeated that in another state as a domicile could also affect a student's financial aid.

"When a student suddenly realizes that they are not a resident of the state in which they are registered to vote, it may affect their whole heart's desire to vote." Griffin said, "If someone wants to register in Lynchburg, the College Registrar will give them information.

"But we guard against things like scholarships, grants and loans.

Spencer-Read suggested that students attending schools outside of their home state should vote by absentee ballot in their respective home districts.

"Out of desire and responsibility to assist anyone in becoming a registered voter, we will provide them with compliance with the law," Spencer-Read said.

"What The Bible Is All About" is a complete survey of the Bible, as written by Mears and the editors of the Orthodox church. The overview of the Russian Church with all the information of the Russian Orthodox Church's official church of Russia. According to this law, no new amendments will be added into the country. Despite the closed doors in ministries, the videos will make it into the country.

"People in the area who support choice have pledged everything from $25 per picket per day," said Jean MacCallum, the Community Development Coordinator of Lynchburg Planned Parenthood. "These funds go to help poor women."

University updates students on SACS

Black speaks on progress, SACS upcoming visit

By JENNIFER BONIA

Representatives from the Liberty administration held an informative meeting and question and answer session last Wednesday night. Oct. 1 after the regular campus church services in regards to the current reaccreditation process.

"In the name of God, let this be a sign of our faith!" said Black, "We will continue to fight for the freedom of our Church."
Weekly Conference: The Liberty University Library will hold a writers' conference on Oct. 11 in Daniel's Place. The conference will be divided into two programs, morning and evening. Guest authors will include Martin Paggiaro, Darrell Loeffer, Bob Upchurch, Bryan Huggins and Lisa Ferguson. Participants will participate in panel discussions and individual workshops at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. During the morning session and will be available to book signings after lunch at 1 p.m. The evening session will run from 6 to 9 p.m.

Library's debt was SACS' main concern, as the administration's changes, then Liberty will be placed on probation for one year. Black said if the Southern Association board

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SALT to protest Planned Parenthood despite intimidation tactics

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Own a bookshop

Library's financial problems.

which Liberty expanded to its recommendations, given to us by SACS. Members of the Special Committee have reviewed copies of this report and additional information related to their specific areas of expertise. Copies of this report are available at University Library.

The SACS Board voted in May to send a team to Liberty in October. The administration's changes, then Liberty will be placed on probation for one year. Black said if the Southern Association board
Yearbook staff dedicates ’97 “Selah” to Towns

By SUZANNE McDUFFIE
Champion Reporter

Dr. Elmer Towns has contributed 40 years of his life to education, yet never in all this time has a yearbook been dedicated to him. Other schools where Towns has taught all told him, “one more year and you would have got it.” Dr. Towns has remained faithful for 27 years at Liberty University and he is “very grateful” for the dedication of the ’96/’97 edition of the yearbook.

Mrs. Deborah Huff, the yearbook advisor, was one of the first people to sign Towns’ copy of the yearbook. Now her name is just one of thousands, as Dr. Towns encouraged every student to sign his or her autograph.

“He was selected because of his relationship with the students,” Huff said.

“When Towns was a freshman at Columbia Bible College, one of his teachers inspired him to reach for the position of college president. By the age of 27, he had attained this goal. However, he soon tired of his presidency at Winnipeg Bible College. ‘(As a college president), you spend too much time in the kitchen and you never get to taste the meals,’” Towns said. “Towns relishes the ‘prospect of changing the lives of students.’

Presently, he teaches freshmen and sophomores along with graduate students. In addition, Towns serves as the Dean of Religion. When reviewing the faculty and staff for the dedication selection, the Selah editorial staff weighed Town’s tenure at LU very heavily. In 1971, when the campus was founded, he served as the only full-time teacher, academic dean and executive vice president.

Along with commitment, the committee considered character. According to Huff, the editors of Selah chose Dr. Towns because “he likes the students as individuals and not just in academics, but he takes personal interest in them as well.”

As the yearbook compiles its next edition, the staff is preparing copy for the ’98 Selah and continues to distribute the ’97 book.

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T

Notional Internship

By MARIANNE GILLESPIE

...experience that they need to set themselves apart from

The administration saw the need for internship opportu- 

...in the late 90s.

By LORI BRIDGEWATER

...I'm trying to figure it all out myself.”

...weights, they willingly took time to share their testi-

...on stage and telling the audience, “I want to live my life like that.” Lee said.

...music, and also a great desire to serve

...to work for God, to have a good relationship with

...in the radio. “Get a hold of it! Two officers shout

...To make sure that an individual is not a criminal...
Contemporary Christian Artist
WAYNE SCOTT FARLEY
In Concert
With special guest Mike Burris
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
8:00 P.M.
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Charlottesville
To Benefit CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach)
Wayne has toured with Glad, Carmen and David Meece. He has also formed his own band FORCE FOR GOOD. One of his singles "When the Mists Have Rolled Away" won him a 10 star rating.
Wayne performs original acoustic songs on a 12 string guitar with styles ranging from folk to pop to rock to country.
[Tickets available at Liberty Bookstore. $8.00 in advance/$10.00 limited seating at door/General Admission.
For map & more info visit us on our Web site at WWW.CSTONE.NET/MINA/CONCERT_MAP.HTML]
Concentration problem in DeMoss needs work

DEMOSTHENES

In my opinion, the concentration problem facing us in DeMoss should be addressed seriously. I believe that the current situation is not only a matter of inconvenience for the students but also poses a real threat to our overall university environment.

Efforts should be made to improve the environment in DeMoss by considering factors such as the size of the cafeteria, the availability of tables, and the proximity to the library. Additionally, the university administration should consider implementing policies that support a more conducive learning environment.

I urge all concerned parties to take action to address this issue, ensuring that students can concentrate on their studies without being disturbed by external factors.

Sincerely,

Concentration problem in DeMoss needs work
Contemporary Christian Artist
WAYNE SCOTT FARLEY
In Concert
With special guest Mike Burris
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
8:00 P.M.
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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For more information, visit us on our Web site at WWW.CSTONE.NET/CONCERTS.HTML

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Liberty's not the same school as a year ago

Homecoming has rolled around again, details hard to believe. The scenes are bringing echoes to Liberty Mountain. Students' tents' reign as Miss Liberty is

...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty” 2 Corinthians 3:17

rushing in to an end. Another year in the history of Liberty University has come and gone.

Many of the alumni are back in town on campus this week, including many who were our classmates just months ago. Another another homecoming. But Liberty is not the same school this year. Many of the alumni will recognize it.

We rate just a few of the changes. There are the obvious, practical things. There are 25 new computers in the lab this fall. This year, the original Liberty Life has been changed. TVS in dorms face hair for men, casual dress in the dining rooms are just a few of the noticeable changes.

The football stadium has new turf (and houses a winning team...). The sky is colored in Liberty Way has been changed. TVs in dorms, facial hair for men, casual dress in the dining rooms are just a few of the noticeable changes. Many of the alumni who were our classmates just months ago. Another another homecoming. But Liberty is not the same school this year. Many of the alumni will recognize it.

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It's about time for Liberty students to quit their complaining.

By SCOTT McGOWIN
Charger Tribune

...there are a few things you can do, get tickets to people who park in white diamonds?... For example, if you do it, then it's not as if you were the first student ever to display thoughtlessness toward campus policies. The students who already did so, and are thus unforgivable, is so interfering that the faculty and administration feel it necessary to get their feelings across in three places because they do so in a faculty space. It's so easy to find people who do this. There are three major groups of students who do this. The first, some of the freshmen, are of course the ones who are the fresh- men. They are still thinking about their high school days, and are lucky to be in college. The second group is the rest of the Monterrey campus freshmen. They are in the middle of the wilderness. The third group of drivers/com­ plainers is the community. They have the keys, the best cars, and probably the best parking passes. You can do this, or you can do this too. Stop complaining. LUPD is just doing its job.
Senior anchor defense between posts

By PAUL PIERSON

Hutchison breaks LU career save record

A flame. Alone Its damage Is
tender Shannon Hutchinson stops a ball, and records another save.

Larson, LU defenders stifle oppo-

ners

By PAUL PIERSON

Iron Curtain — LU goalie Joe Larson has only given up 1.33 goals per game this season.

Welcome back Alumni! Homecoming 1997

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1 large Pizza with 1 topping
$9.70 regular price
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Liberty Discount -$2.00

Your Price $3.25

1 medium Pizza with 1 topping
$7.45 regular price
Liberty Discount -$3.00

Your Price $4.45

Liberty Champion, Page 9
W-soccer blanks Flashes

By KERRY RODRIGUEZ

The Liberty University women's soccer team pounded the visiting Kent State Golden Flashes Saturday, Oct 4. Liberty's senior forward Ben Johnson said.

The Lady Flames volleyball team (16-6, 6-3 Big South Conference) rolled through three opponents last week. The squad toppled conference foes UNC Asheville and Winthrop, as well as non-conference foes Radford, South Carolina, and Coastal Carolina. Liberty secured the first set of its Big South sweep against the Bulldogs Tuesday, Oct 7, and followed up with a triumph over the Winthrope Eagles. LU cruised to a 15-8, 15-6, 15-11 victory.

Senior Jessica Kerth accounted for Liberty's third goal at the 85:40 mark. Lucido put the Flames on the board again as Virginia sealed a 5-2 win. Less than three minutes later, Virginia's senior forward Matt West scored again by West, soon after the point spread to three.

The Lady Flames travel to Campbell University on Tuesday, Oct 7, and then return home to play host to South Carolina Thursday, Oct 9, at 7 p.m.

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Kerry Rodriquez, retired

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National Football League

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Liberty

Gabe Wilkins of Green Bay highlighted the 21 Green Bay Packers (4-2) comeback to beat the 31 Pittsburgh Steelers (3-3) with a touchdown.

22 Buffalo Bills (3-2) lose to the 16 Tampa Bay Buccaneers (8-1) as Bruce Smith tackled Barry Sanders in the backfield.

16 Jacksonville Jaguars (4-1) touchdown run to clinch their victory for the Jets.

College Football Results

1. Florida (5-0) defeated Illinois 41-6, PSU qjUiafterM .

3. Nebraska (4-0) scored 28 points after the shutout.

4. Penn State (4-0) vs. Michigan (4-0). The Wolverines scored 28 points to clinch the victory.

5. Florida State University defeated E.C. Glass High School.

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Friday Night Live

The Florida State Seminoles headed to Tallahassee to take on Georgia Tech. The Seminoles defense halted the Yellow Jackets' offense, allowing only 10 points.

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Karamazov helped fund the experiment.

YoungLife is an International Christian Organization that is dedicated to seeing that every junior and senior high student has the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am a 1996 graduate from LU and will call and tell you how.

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26 oz. President's Choice Picante Salsa
14.5 oz. General Mills

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Prices Effective Through October 13, 1997

Prices in this Ad Effective Tuesday, October 7, 1997 through Monday October 13, 1997. 3 or Lynyrd Skynyrd Bar and Grille, 8201 Lynyrd Skynyrd Blvd, Do Not Remove the Price or Unit Quantity. None Valid to Dealers. We Strictly Accept Federal Food Stamps.
Sports

Fighting Christians meet fiery demise
Flames trounce Elon 41-9; Liberty protects un tarnished record

By LAUREL MILLER
Sports Editor

After sustaining its first loss of the season to UVa., Liberty's defense was caught off-guard as the Fighting Christians Saturday, Oct. 4.

The Flames capitalized early in the first half when junior quarterback Ben Johnson and Ryan Trumbo passed the ball to running back Stacey Nobles out of the locker room on a screen. In the second half Nobles outmatched Elon's defensive line as he added two more touchdowns. A performance that propelled him into 10th place in NCAA yardage stats.

Nobles was the last Fighting Christian to score a touchdown in the game. It was an 86 yard reception and touched down in the second half, and it worked out fine.

The Flames will spend this week preparing for the Homecoming game and according to Coach Tom Ross, "Our offense was unstoppable in the first half but we had a slow second half." The Flames' defense threw its weight around and could handle anything Elon could throw at them.

By MIKE DETMER

Elon's season record to 1-8. The Flames also out-shot the Fighting Christians 17-4 in the game. Despite the victory, the Flames took a major blow that could affect the rest of their contests. Less than 25 minutes into the game, and amassed 156 yards of rushing in the 41-9 domination.

Today's game was a total team effort, and sophomore Ramsey Moore each tallied a sack on the season.

Junior Wolfe each shot 78 to a team score of 615 — a score good enough to surpass Division I schools by up to 11 strokes.

The Flames will spend this week preparing for the Homecoming game and according to Coach Tom Ross, "Our offense was unstoppable in the first half but we had a slow second half." The Flames' defense threw its weight around and could handle anything Elon could throw at them.

The Liberty golf team was also mentioned within the same sentence. His "delicate" side Is a positive, healthy outlook on life. "As sweaty members of the band, we sing and give testimony the whole way, They sang and gave testimony the whole way, They sang and gave testimony the whole way," one team member said.

"Just because some people make the wrong statement, doesn't mean that standing out is bad altogether," said "Penny." In fact, it's important for Christians and Christian athletes to counter the world's "bad option" with poetry, and an attitude that reveals a difference.

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Inside ...

1.2 Miss Liberty: The 'Final Five'

1.3 Getting to know the 'Flame Thrower'

1.4 Men's Soccer is on a roll

1.5 The 'Big Game:
Liberty vs. Hampton

1.6 'Beneath the Feathers

1.6 'Fire in the Sky

1.7 Statistical 'Rankings

Homecoming Preview, Page 1
21-year-old Trista Denee Pinkard is a 21-year-old Elementary Education major. She envisions teaching on the mission field after graduating from Liberty. If given the opportunity, she would like to share the gospel with the people of northern India. “After being there with them, I have a special desire to see them again and the only topic they need to hear about is how to know Jesus,” Pinkard said.

Ms. Pinkard’s parents are William and Parr Pinkard.

Jennifer Lynne Ward is a 20-year-old Elementary Education major from Cheltenham, Md. After graduation, she sees herself teaching elementary school. If selected as Miss Liberty, Ms. Ward would like to address the nation’s youth. “If I could communicate to such at-risk students that their life has meaning and a purpose, then I will be leaving with them a message of hope for their future,” Ward said.

Ms. Ward’s parents are Roy and Wanda Ward.

Sarah St. John is a 23-year-old Elementary Education major from Jacksonville, Fl. who wants to teach in the public school system upon graduation. If given the opportunity to travel the country, St. John would choose to speak to young women on the topic of self-image. “I think that too often we as women fail to realize our inner qualities and worth,” St. John said. “As a result, our personal relationships and achievements suffer.”

Sunday Rae Beckman is a 22-year-old FACS major from Cincinnati, OH. After graduating from LU, she hopes to work with youth. If chosen as Miss Liberty, Beckman would speak to youth about the need for a relationship with God. “Today’s youth is the foundation of our society and we are responsible for training them,” Beckman said.

Ms. Beckman is the daughter of Richard Beckman and Bonnie Hopper.

The competition for the title of Miss Liberty has now entered its final round. With only five young women left in the contest, the student body will have the chance to vote for their representative for the 97/98 school year during convocation on Oct. 10.

The field has been narrowed to 21 competitors early last week. The traditional top 20 was altered due to a tie.

Dean of Student Life, Mike Stewart extended his congratulations to the top 21. “Even being selected as one of 21 is a pretty big deal,” Stewart said. “It does say something.”

Due to the early homecoming weekend, several senior ladies were left off of the voting ballot. “We’re sorry, but there was nothing we could do at that point,” said Stewart.

The top five women will have the chance to give a testimony in convocation before the student vote is taken. As in years past, a senior’s vote will be worth five points, a junior’s four, a sophomore’s three and a freshman’s one.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, the new Miss Liberty will be crowned by reigning Miss Liberty Katerina Terzic at the Homecoming football game.

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Lynchburg Plasma
By MATT SWINEHART
Editor in Chief

As leader of the Flames’ 4-0 fire, senior quarterback Ben Anderson fully understands the team aspect of his sport.

Proving that he is an offensive force to be reckoned with, Anderson has completed 32 of 97 passes for 992 yards and 6 touchdowns on the season. However, Ben doesn’t let the numbers get to him. After last week’s trouncing of Elon College, he remarked, “We won 41-9 today.... What do I care if I threw for 10 yards or if I threw for 270 yards? My personal goal is to help the team win, whatever it takes.”

The attitude is contagious amongst team members. “There’s no ‘Hey, I scored this touchdown or I got this quarterback sack,’ it’s always turned directly upon the team,” Anderson said.

Football has been a part of Anderson’s life for a long time, dating all the way back to his infancy. “When I came out of the womb I went ahead and threw a bomb,” Anderson joked. “I guess if you count backyard style (I’ve played football) ... pretty much all my life.” Anderson recalls roughing around with his older brother. “He knocked about three of my teeth out,” Anderson said.

The team aspect of his sport is amongst team members. “There’s no ‘Hey, I scored this touchdown or I got this quarterback sack,’ it’s always turned directly upon the team,” Anderson said.

“Actually, (golf is) something that kind of relaxes me. It’s totally different than football,” Anderson said more seriously. “Sometimes, I said more seriously. “Sometimes, I go in those weeks and the last thing I wanna think about is what blitz,” so I just go out and hit a couple (golf balls).

While the football team’s long-term goal is to make the playoffs, Anderson understands that it must be done step-by-step. “Things will take care of themselves,” he said. “If you prepare each week for each team and win each game, you’ll find yourself in the playoffs.”

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What Better Way to Spend a Saturday!
Liberty’s soccer squad rolls to 9-1

By AMY BENNETT
Champion Reporter

The Flame cannot be extinguished. Georgetown tried, VMI tried, Marshall tried, and the list goes on.

Each of these teams came out with a game plan of defeating Liberty’s men’s soccer team, and each of these, and more, have failed.

Although they’ve suffered their first loss of the season, Liberty’s squad is not distractable and will still continue to chase after the Big South Championship.

The start of the ’97 men’s soccer season has been the best in school history. After last year’s injury-plagued squad finished at 11-2-2, the guys came back determined to make the most of their talent.

Added to the already gifted team, came rookie forwards Jose Gomez (five goals, one assist) and Gary Ricketts (eight goals, four assists) and midfielders freshman Derek Avllez (three goals, one assist) and junior transfer from England, Rob Weaver (two goals, eight assists). These four account for 18 of the 24 Liberty goals on the year.

“The addition of Gomez, Ricketts, Weaver and Avllez gave us more depth since we lost Kian Brownlee and Troy McLean to injuries,” assistant coach Jeff Alder said. Gomez also added that not just one person is scoring, it’s a team effort.

Not only are the Flames scoring goals like never before, but the defense is working just as hard to keep opposing teams from scoring.

Before the loss to UVa., LU’s defense, led by senior goalie Joe Larson, sported a .75 goal against average. Even after the game, Liberty still defends only a 1.22 goal against average.

Last year’s first team Big South goalkeeper, Larson, has already tallied 43 saves and three shutouts. He has only given up 11 goals on the year, five of those coming against Virginia alone.

The underlying factor of LU’s success is attributed to God by all the team members.

“We have a good team, but the Lord’s really blessed us,” senior midfielder Ryan Trumama said. Junior defender Ben Johnson agreed, “We never look past one game to the next, just one game at a time.”

The most challenging part of their schedule is yet to come. This week kicks off four straight conference games, with three of those games being at home, where LU is still unbeaten for the year.

This team has talent, character, leadership and determination. They will not be satisfied until they play up to their potential. There is room for improvement.

The outcome of the season will depend on whether or not the team works on improving in the areas where they are now making mistakes.

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The Invention of the Chicken Sandwich

For years, cows endured bland, tasteless grass, day after day. Home Economics labs looked for ways to bring more flavor to the fields. The spicy Pepper Lick provided a healthy alternative to burgers.
The Big Game: LU vs. Hampton

By MARK HOGSED
Champion Reporter

The football Flames will attempt to improve their record to 5-0 against the Hampton University Pirates in this season's Homecoming game, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Stadium.

After coming off a disappointing season last year, which left the team just under .500, at 5-6, HU currently stands at an impressive 3-1. The frustration of last year led to Hampton's '97 football theme: "Unfinished Business." This theme simply means that opponents should be aware of the Pirates presence, because they are legitimate and will not be denied.

Sixth-year Head Coach Joe Taylor has had great success with the Flames, leading the team to an overall 47-14-1 record since his arrival in 1992. Coach Taylor, however, is 0-3 against Liberty, which left the team Just under .500 against the Hampton program in 1996, rushing for nearly 1,000 yards. While Jackson is averaging 110 yards per game in the '97 campaign, which is second in the MEAC.

The backfield is the focal point of the defense. Senior Kyle Payne, who doubles as a receiver, leads Hampton with two interceptions this season and will work with fellow cornerbacks David Turner to try to contain the Flames offense. All-MEAC selection Jay Clarke, who had 50 tackles in 1996, will assume his role at free-safety.

So far this season, HU is averaging 330 total yards per game, nearly 30 points per contest. Johnson threw for 2,570 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. The Pirates will rely heavily on a strong backfield, consisting of fullback Tyrone Mayer and running back Charles Jackson. Mayer was named All-MEAC in 1996, rushing for more than 1,000 yards, while Jackson is averaging 110 yards per game in the '97 campaign, which is second in the MEAC.

Pre-season All-MEAC Lamont Turner, a 6'7" 295 pound offensive lineman, will also try to leave a lasting impression on the LU defense. Although the Pirates are expecting a good game from the offense, the defense is looking for a strong point this year.

The football Flames will attempt to improve their record to 5-0 against the Hampton University Pirates in this season's Homecoming game, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Stadium.

Alumni return to alma mater for homecoming

By BECKY WALKER
Life! Editor

Next week, alumni will be flocking back to Liberty for Homecoming weekend. It will be a time of reminiscing and catching-up for past LU students and a time for alumni to get caught up in the school spirit of their alma mater.

Mark Smith, co-director of the alumni association for the past two years, said that they are expecting up to 600 alumni next weekend.

The first event planned for the alumni is the annual alumni banquet. The banquet is scheduled for Friday on Oct. 10 and will be hosted by Dr. Jerry Falwell, Dr. Borek and Dr. Guillermi.

During the banquet, several alumni will be awarded the Eagle Outstanding Alumni Award. The award is given to alumni who were nominated by fellow alumni through a ballot, which was sent to them in the mail. To keep the tradition, dinner entertainment will also be brought in for the alumni banquet. Last year the alumni who attended the banquet dined to music by Christian singer, Wayne Watson. This year banquet attendees will be entertained by the Christian group, "Truth." The dinner costs $30 per person and $55 per couple.

On Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., an alumni picnic will be held before the Homecoming game at Williams Stadium. The cook-out style lunch with all the trimmings will be catered by Marriott. The cost is $5 per person.

The awaited football game against Hampton University will then end the Homecoming events at 7:30 p.m.
Beneath the feathers

By MIKE DETMER
Champion Reporter

Here’s a riddle: “In name it’s a flame, but in body a bird.” No guesses? How ’bout a hint, his attendance is required at every Liberty home football or men’s basketball game. The answer is obvious — or should be — the Liberty mascot. But, why an eagle when Liberty calls itself the Flames?

The Bird’s answer was this: Liberty’s motto is “Knowledge Allame,” a slogan that embraces and includes liberty, honor, justice, truth, etc. — things the Olympic flame and the American eagle stand for, all rolled into one. This concept is best represented by, coincidentally, an eagle. His reasoning: an eagle can portray — with some degree of accuracy — a range of emotions, serious, and not, while a flame (how would you make his costume?) would most likely be condemned to a perpetual existence of ludicrousness.

Without a person inside, the eagle would just be a bird suit that is 60 degrees warmer than the outside, with a 20 pound head. Who is that man inside the costume, the one that holds Liberty’s image in his curved beak, the one who can make or break everything the eagle is, does or stands for?

When the head pops off of the hot Eagle suit at the close of a game, a smiling red-head with freckles wipes the sweat off his brow, and beams for the photographers. LU junior Paul Pierson is the man inside the bird. He hails from Toledo, Ohio, but spent his first 16 years in Detroit — hence his unyielding support of any and every professional Detroit sports team.

He boasts a dual major of Sports Management/Business which may be the reason his high school graduating class voted him “most optimistic.” Paul wants to pursue a two-year internship after graduation in order to give him practical experience and good references, but he would also thoroughly enjoy being a professional mascot for a couple years.

So who is that feathered soul patrolling the sidelines and the stands, instigating, fighting, cheering for and generally supporting the Flames? Is it Pierson? or Fire Incarnate? Pierson says, “It’s a mixture of the two.” When he dons the eagle costume, it’s a partial expansion of his person, but for the most part, it’s a different character. Most importantly, he says, “It’s all about getting the crowd into the game.”

Pierson applied for the position of mascot on a dare from his roommate. He was accepted the night before the Flames football team played before a crowd of over 12,000 people.

The final score was 52-0 Liberty. According to tradition, the eagle has to do an equal amount of push-ups as the new amount of points, every time the Flames score. Paul had to do a total of 162 push-ups and 46 sit-ups plus all of his other antics during the game.

Paul thinks that one of the hardest parts of being a mascot is that everyone’s eyes are on him as the representative of the school. “There is someone watching all the time,” he said. That’s not his only advice. To freshmen in particular he says, “Get involved.” In both areas, Paul has swallowed his own advice, and come out on top. Paul is quick to say, “I would never change what I’ve got — which may be the reason his high school graduating class voted him “most optimistic.”

From Paul’s hobbies include snowboarding (he’s a nine-year veteran), reading (he reads roughly 15 books a month — mostly fantasy) and sports. Speaking of sports, Paul began wrestling in fourth grade and was the captain of his high school wrestling team. He was the starting tailback during his senior year on the high school football team (he averaged five yards per carry) and he was unanimously voted “most enthusiastic” by his football teammates. He also played attack on Liberty’s club lacrosse team.

However, sports aren’t everything to Paul. He has a brother and five sisters, as well as a niece and a nephew. He balances mascoting, a full-time job, writing for the Champion, working out and last but not least, 15 credit hours.

WHO’S CHICKEN? — Liberty’s eagle mascot performs for the crowds at a sporting event.

By JEREMY PIONTER
Champion Reporter

When the game is over on Saturday night, and the lights go down in William’s Stadium, turn your gaze in the direction of the Wingate Inn — currently under construction across Highway 460 — and get ready for a treat.

Dave Hamel, general manager of the new Wingate Inn, as well as Days Inn on Candler’s Mountain Road, is a Liberty graduate who had an idea last summer. This year’s homecoming will be just a little bit brighter, thanks to Hamel.

With a phone call to the Newcastle, Pa. based fireworks company, Pyrotechnics, his idea began to take shape.

“The people at Liberty were nice enough to schedule a night game so that we could do it,” Hamel said. “We’re going to try to make it last about 15 minutes, so that there’s something in the air all the time. That way we don’t have to wait, and then wait a minute, and then ‘poof’ again. That gets boring.”

Pyrotechnics subcontracted with a local group of experts called “The Starshooters” who will be in charge of actually setting off the fireworks.

John Tucker is one of two men from the group who will be creating the magic for Saturday night. “I’ve been doing it for the last five years,” he said.

“Eleven of us — actually started by doing the Uncle Billy’s Night festivities in Alta Vista,” said Tucker. “After doing that for a couple years, the fireworks companies asked us if we would shoot some other shows.”

“What started out as merely helping out with a community festival eventually became a part-time job. “Now we shoot approximately 20 to 25 shows a year,” Tucker said, referring to it as a hobby. “We don’t really do it for the money. We just do it kind of like individuals who are in bands.”

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Liberty nears Top 25 rankings

By MATT KEENAN
Champion Reporter

With a perfect 4-0 record entering the homecoming game, Liberty's football team is slowly moving up in the IAA polls.

Heading into last Saturday's game versus Elon College, Liberty was ranked No. 20 among IAA schools in Jeff Sagarin's USA Today Power Rankings. After the trouncing of Elon the Flames jumped up four spots to No. 16 in the Power Rankings.

Even though Liberty's power ranking is among the Top 25 in the nation, it has yet to convince the politicians who vote weekly on the Top 25, that they belong with the best. (Polls were unavailable at press time.)

According to the USA Today/ESPN IAA poll Liberty had not yet cracked the Top 25 heading into the Elon matchup.

Head Coach Sam Rutigliano seems to think that with his team's win against Elon it belonged in the Top 25. "I definitely think that we should be in the Top 25. We have a better record than most of the teams in the Top 25," Rutigliano said. "But polls don't mean anything until the fat lady sings on November 22 (Liberty's last regular season contest versus Appalachian State)."

Liberty moved up in its power ranking thanks to the Hampton Pirates. Hampton stunned No. 10 ranked Florida A&M 18-15 last week, which vaulted the Pirates up from their No. 34 power rank to No. 29. With the loss Florida A&M plummeted from the No. 18 spot to No. 30.

"Polls don't mean anything until the fat lady sings on November, 22."
— Sam Rutigliano

Flames senior defensive lineman Rodney DeGrate also believes that the Flames deserve a higher spot. "I believe that we deserve a Top 25 ranking, but we just have to stay focused and come out ready to play next week," DeGrate said. "Hampton has a good team and they're going to come ready to play."

Along with the team seeking national recognition, there are two individuals on Liberty's squad who are garnering All-American status. According to NCAA statistics, senior quarterback Ben Anderson is 10th in the nation in passing efficiency and also No. 22 in total offense.

Flames junior place-kicker Phillip Harrelson is ranked No. 4 in the nation in field goals and No. 10 in scoring.

The results from other IAA games this past weekend should help boost the Flames into the Top 25. Six teams out of the Top 10 lost over this past weekend, including the No. 1 ranked Montana Grizzlies who lost 28-13 to Wyoming.

The Youngstown State Penguins and Villanova Wildcats won to remain the only two schools left in the Top 5 that are undefeated.

Other ranked teams who lost include: No. 10 Florida A&M, No. 11 Appalachian St., No. 17 Eastern Washington and No. 19 Furman who lost to Western Carolina, 17-16. Liberty beat the Catamounts of Western Carolina 17-10 earlier this year.

More importantly for Liberty, No. 23 James Madison lost to Villanova 49-17, and No. 24 Northwestern State lost to Northeast Louisiana 17-7 which should provide some room for LU to jump up in the polls.

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