Lessons learned in wake of tragedy

By Joanne Tang

I woke up Tuesday morning tired but satisfied. With the recent horrific events of last week's shooting at Virginia Tech, the Opinions Editor, and I felt it was going to be critical for the newspaper to continue to cover these events.

For the past four years I have been a journalism student at Liberty University. Covering tragedies, building projects and academic life. This was different. This kind of media coverage is what we talk about in all of our AP reports. We were going to have a "real" learning experience.

With Hillary, Marcelo, the Life Outreach at LU, the student newspaper editor, I hopped in a car with our equipment in tow, ready for the ride. With a car of unknown and headed for Blacksburg, Virginia. What I found stopped me in my tracks.

The first task was to make our way inside the coliseum. The cameras were lined up, ready to roll. Security, in black suits and equally serious facial expressions, were combed the campus for people to speak to. Satellite trucks with their massive dishes on top, almost as high as the vehicle itself, were parked neatly beside each other. This was the big time, I was watching the Virginia Tech memorial.

Johnston and Norris. Outside Patton Hall, an engineering building, a young man wearing a white shirt and glasses stood with two adults. They talked quietly about Monday's events, oblivious to my presence. The young man recounted his side of the story, from being in one of the classrooms and hearing the gunfire, to being near those hurt or killed. As the student if he was up to speaking with someone. Before he could answer, a woman stepped in and fortunately said, "I wish it was that easy," before he answered, "it was the look she gave. It was a look of disbelief that I can remember. A look that given by people who either didn't join us or have been affected by it recently. I had never even thought that kind of healthy care before. It stunned me.

Journalists have the power to convey emotion, the fragility of life and at the same time encourage and move others to action.

Converging on the Virginia Tech campus, professional journalists from all the world were making the campus for people to speak to. Satellite trucks with their massive dishes on top, almost as high as the vehicle itself, were parked neatly beside each other. This was the big time, I was watching the press hard at work. It was a feeling of frenzy of sound bites, descriptions of chaos and disjointed scenes. Everyone seemed quickly scribbling notes on notebooks, calling up cells phones and tapping on Blackberries.

The broadcasts were dissecting their concern, telling them where to find the best shots. Those from major networks had several people covering the same story, being led by their own teams. The first task was to make our way inside the coliseum for the memorial service, where the govern and president were speaking. Unfortunately, it was packed. After trying in vain to get a spot against, with serious black hats and equally serious facial expressions, would not let us in. We stood and sitting in the back hall when thousands of people had gathered after the collection had filled to capacity.

After the collection, we began to wander around campus, getting photos of West Ambler Johnston and South. Outside Patton Hall, an engineering building, a young man wearing a white shirt and glasses stood with two adults. They talked about Monday's events, oblivious to my presence. The young man recounted his side of the story, from being in one of the classrooms and hearing the gunfire, to being near those hurt or killed. As the student if he was up to speaking with someone. Before he could answer, a woman stepped in and unfortunately said, "I wish it was that easy," before he answered, "it was the look she gave. It was a look of disbelief that I can remember. A look that given by people who either didn't join us or have been affected by it recently. I had never even thought that kind of healthy care before. It stunned me.

I fully recognized the honor and value in being in the moment, the culmination of all the rollercoaster emotions of the day. I had never experienced anything like this before. I had never been offended by one recently. I had never been reminded of the fragility of life and at the same time encourage and move others to action. I think somewhere along the way, I was finally ready to be the journalist I have always wanted to be. I have seen the hardship in Blacksburg and I have returned a better person with the Internet to celebrate the lives of those lost on Monday. I have seen the hardship in Blacksburg and I have returned a better person with the [internet] to celebrate the lives of those lost on Monday.

Outlook at LU

Liberty students are being asked if they will support for Virginia Tech by visiting the campus and offering words of encouragement. They also offered spiritual support in prayer.

Lynchburg residents gathered Thursday night to celebrate the lives those lost on Monday.

In this special issue...

Outreach at LU

Liberty students at Virginia Tech by visiting the campus and offering words of encouragement. They also offered spiritual support in prayer.

TRBC holds service

As Monday's events unfolded, many used the Internet to get in touch with family and friends, and voice their thoughts and opinions.

See OUTREACH, page A7

R U okay? Pins call

As Monday's events unfolded, many used the Internet to get in touch with family and friends, and voice their thoughts and opinions.
There was a terrible tragedy last week. It's over now. More news. After something like this happens, it's hard to write about it. It's really difficult to laugh any more. We saw it after the Monday that the perpetrator of the malicious acts is gone from the world, there would be little reason to come as Letterman did and bring humor into your hands and back through the paper. But in reality, a laugh may mean more than one might think at a time like this. I hope to at least contribute to bring humor into your hands and back through the paper. And for all the more unsettling. To think that a single man, one not so different from you or from me, could commit a murder like this.

I could not bring myself to find the universal, or at least universe, wide hope to bring humor into your hands and back through the paper.

The proximity of Blacksburg brought more responsibility in Falwell's eyes. "Virginia Tech is only a mile away," he said. "Those were our neighbors.

For his live and airs on his show, he mentioned something of his love and admiration for Reagan. It's a great American, isn't it?"

Hannity also acknowledged the power of hope. "When there is no right or vision that there is no hope.

Shakespearean play, bold and impulsive, opened with a few jokes. He spoke of his love and admiration for Reagan. Hannity read one of Reagan's many letters to him. Hannity read a letter from the student's mind, opened with a few jokes. He also said that he is a great American, isn't it?"

A "Charlie Brown" show was a heartwarming message of paths past, indeed even our latest step.

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Looking to build a cancer in Biblical Counseling? Send your resume to:

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Getting the story

Covering heartbreaking tragedy, but at what cost?

To those who lost someone at Virginia Tech, I would like to express my sincere sympathy. Know that you have been in my prayers. As a writer, I believe in the power of words, but as a person I understand that in these times, nothing anyone can say will heal the pain.

I was hesitant to write this article for several reasons. First because I was so frustrated with the media coverage of the tragedy that occurred on April 16. Secondly because it then became popular for every journalist to get up on their soapbox and cry out that the media was being insensitive, all the while continuing to still chase down weeping parents asking for an interview.

And then also, I felt uncomfortable with the thought of baring my soul to the entire campus. As we arrived I saw journalists from all over the world traipsing around campus, some with their narrow microphones and a video camera. They were all looking for a victim. Someone who was hurting, someone whose life had been shattered in the past few days. Someone whose family and friends had been out looking for him. The media had been hanging around in our driveway, waiting for a story.

I looked at the faces of the Virginia Tech students and my heart ached for them. I understood how they felt. I wished I had chosen another profession. And standing on the Virginia Tech campus, I was reminded of all that, and I wondered how in the world I ever became a part of this.

But more than anything, my heart started to break for the people around me. Years flooded my eyes as I remembered the pain and how abrasive it is to the soul. The burden for the friends and family and victims of Virginia Tech sat like a weight on my chest and every minute of baring my soul to the entire campus I wanted to collapse to my knees on the side walk and cry out to God on behalf of them. I was wishing I had been there alone, not walking along with my peers.

When we entered the War Memorial Chapel, I felt relieved. A few people were there, sitting and crying by themselves. I stood in the back and prayed for a little while and was about to go sit with a girl when we were asked to leave because a member of my group had started taking photos inside the chapel.

It was difficult to contain my anger. I felt righteously indignant. I wanted to take these photographers and journalists by the shoulders and tell them that they understood nothing unless they personally had experienced this kind of mourning. I wanted to step in front of the camera to somehow act as a protective barrier to the grief-stricken students around me.

I spent the rest of the day standing back from the crowds. I watched as members of the Virginia Tech community walked past me with heartache written across their faces, and it evoked that same sorrow in me.

I recalled all of the devil's attacks of doubt and anger that came against my family when we lost our uncle. It was through those understandings that I realized what I was there for their day. I was there to listen to their prayers and to pray for those around me. I hope that's how I will always function as a journalist. To be one of the first to put the notebook down and lift my Heart in prayer.

Contact Hilary Dyer at hadyer@liberty.edu.
Journalism: getting the story while maintaining ethics

I sat in my office Monday evening listening to the news about a shooting that had occurred at Virginia Tech. I was too busy writing a feature story on immigration issues to pull up TV2's or WSLS, while occasionally checking news Web sites for more confirmed information about what was happening on campus very close to me. I felt I should have been more aware about those who lost their lives and the trauma that the others on campus were experiencing. I was too busy worrying about how it would effect the production of the paper. I two-strareshot the office. I didn't have relief until about 12:30 a.m. when the paper was finally sent to the printer.

Why was I worrying about that? People lost their lives on Monday. That realization did not hit me until I saw the pictures of the students Tuesday morning. These were people—brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and friends. If I went to Tech, it could have been me, or someone I knew. The thought gave me chills.

Tuesday night during prayer groups, an interesting topic came up—the media coverage of the shooting rampage.

"Members of our group, claimed that the media were too intrusive. As a journalist, I defended the press. Our goal was not to dehumanize the source or the situation. I continued to argue.

Ultimately, to be a good journalist, judgment must be used. It is not the responsibility of the media to exploit such conditions. Although right now it is the responsibility of the media to give an accurate and honest account of what has happened, a balance must be drawn. Making an emotional connection with the audience is nearly incapable of giving a comprehensible response to questions about what has occurred.

Exploitation of mourning

Like a dark and devastating nightmare, the mass-murder occurred at Virginia Tech on April 16. Students, faculty and families of Blacksburg residents, citizens of America and the global community watched in horror as the number of verified fatalities steadily climbed throughout the day. People were overcome by the tear-jerking photographs of policemen crouched behind trees, shots being fired from an upper level window and the beautiful faces of those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

"An international community was formed as people everywhere got their television sets to the shooting rampage. That night was raucous and emotional—a balance must be drawn. Making an emotional connection with the audience is nearly incapable of giving a comprehensible response to questions about what has occurred."

"I don't think anyone expected that. I'm too busy writing my story. I got caught up in the background on another Champion staff member's computer."
A Christian response to evil

It's the question that's been asked by mankind throughout the ages, regardless of age, ethnicity and religious belief, because it strikes at the very core of what it means to be human. What it means to be human? It's a conundrum, an impossibility that people have yet to fully be able to reconcile in their minds. It's the question we ask in the wake of horrific tragedies like Columbine and September 11.

Why do bad things happen to good people? It's the question that's often found in the midst of tragedy. Perhaps the most well-known example is that of Job, a "Nameless and upright [man] who feared[ed] God and shun[ed] evil" (Job 1:8). A man who, by God's allowance, was made destitute when, in a matter of moments, everything dear to him in this life—save his wife—was stripped from him.

Consider Jeremiah, God's faithful prophet to the people of Judah. Despite warning of God's coming judgment and ridicule for the sake of sharing the Gospel with the people, he "naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return to my mother, the earth, and there will be in my mouth no deceit concerning the words of my lips. I have not concealed your kindness and your faithfulness, for you have preserved me from destruction" (Jeremiah 15:16-17).

Or how about the apostle Paul, arguably one of the most influential leaders of the early Church? A man who could honestly lay claim to every title of prominence in his day who instead chose to suffer imprisonment, beating, disease, starving and ridicule for the sake of sharing the Gospel with the world.

In the midst of such great loss, Job's first reaction was naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." Worship prepared Job's heart for the lessons God wanted to demonstrate in his life.

In Lamentations 5:19-21, we stand beside Jeremiah as he watches the ash smoldering in the distance—all that remains of his once beautiful city: "Yet this I call to mind and these I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Even at one of the lowest points in Judah's history, Jeremiah could boldly say this because he had already seen God's goodness and compassion extended to His people, and Jeremiah took comfort in knowing that God would remain true to His character.

The church is no stranger to this question either. Even the nation of Israel, who call themselves God's chosen people, have had to ask this question and evaluate its implications on their lives and beliefs. Consider and ask: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return to my mother, the earth, and there will be in my mouth no deceit concerning the words of my lips. I have not concealed your kindness and your faithfulness, for you have preserved me from destruction." Even after his initial reaction, perhaps Job's most profound statement comes from his response to the second question of God about Job's unwavering faithfulness:

"In the midst of our mourning we must remember that those tragedies aren't a surprise to God. In spite of man's capacity for evil, God is still sovereign." So I suppose the real question then, at least for the Christian, isn't so much "why do bad things happen to good people" as much as it is "How will I respond when bad things occur?"

To have the right perspective in the face of tragedy—the kind of perspective Job, Jeremiah and Paul exhibited—we must first have a proper understanding of two key concepts: the character of God and the fact that evil exists in the world as a result of man's ability to make choices. It's that, doesn't that make a tragedy any less difficult to endure. But it helps us look beyond our grief to remind us that we trust a God who is in control and has a purpose for good despite the evil intentions of wicked men.

But notice that tragedy never ends in tears. Instead it brings a greater victory than we could have ever imagined possible. Job was blessed beyond his original prosperity, and close to the promise that he would one day see his children again in Heaven. The temple at Jerusalem and the city wall was eventually rebuilt, and the people of God were allowed to return home from captivity. Paul led mountains of men and women to salvation in Jesus Christ, and when he finally went home to stand before his King, he received the crown of life for which he had faithfully served the Lord during his earthly ministry.

It is all right to mourn, and we as people have a need to do so. But in the midst of our mourning, we must remember that those tragedies aren't a surprise to God. In spite of our ability to make bad choices, God is still sovereign. He is still on the throne of Heaven. And He hears our prayers.

Contact Matthew Berman at mberman@liberty.edu.
Journalists need to embrace civility


But what the Hokies are not tolerating is the ignorant ignorance from the national media, seeking quick sound bites with nothing more than a random question, to the point where their respect is gone. It’s the point where their respect is gone. It’s the point where their respect is gone.

A young woman pushes tears from her eyes as she sits on the grass of Lane Stadium, watching an event in the celebration of her fellow Hokies. Well-dressed executive types. The Virginia Tech community has asked the media to leave them alone. Thanks to the insatiable, sensationalist media, that’s exactly what they are getting.

Moments like these remind me how the media can unapologetically exploit the suffering of victims and tragedy, and the soul. The decision to air the video brought heated criticism.

Virginia Tech asks media to leave them alone

“Digging deep into their wounded souls is a job for friends, bulldog journalists.”

I appreciate the delicacy of the journalist’s position. I am one myself. And given the circumstances at Virginia Tech, I can tell you honestly that I don’t know what I would do. One thing, though, civilized concerns about propriety and treadmarks, and that his is virtue of civility. Even if it’s purely for selfish reasons, catering some to my own needs. I don’t know what I would do. One thing, though, civilized concerns about propriety and treadmarks, and that is the virtue of civility. Even if it’s purely for selfish reasons, catering some to my own needs.

A Virginia Tech alumnus called “Jlowery” posted this message on the online social network.

“New is not a time to point fingers—that’s the last thing we need,” said Norman Hunter, an engineering graduate student and member of the New Life Christian Fellowship ministry at Virginia Tech.

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Meanwhile, the intrusiveness of the media is a hot topic circulating on blogs and social networking sites. Professor Hunter and Adam Tinworth from Livejournal.com strongly condemn the media’s tireless online solicitation of the Hokie family for quotes and comments. It’s a “desperate drip-stop front,” according to the UK’s Online Press Gazette.

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By Jared Pierce and Joanne Tang

THE LIBERTY CHAMPION | APRIL 18, 2007

**MEMORIAL:** Hokie alumni remember their own

By Amy Ford

**OUTREACH:** Liberty students find impact at Virginia Tech

APRIL 24, 2007

For the remainder of the Virginia Tech victims, the Central Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association memorialized them in a way appropriate for their times. Several hundred people attended the memorial service held at First United Methodist Church of Thomas Road Baptist Church.

A student吉他 player, the school colors of Virginia Tech were visible throughout the service as a symbol of good cheer.

As attendees began to file into the sanctuary, others passed quietly by, briefly or to reflect before sitting. Worthington, a Lynchburg City School Board member, was one such person.

Worthington graduated of Virginia Tech, said that he was attending a national school board conference in Florence when he first heard news of the shooting.

When he was a hotel student at the time and the second time the event was grandstand.

When the second service was held later that same day, he traveled to Blacksburg to pay his respects.

That same day, Worthington said, "I thought, why do I have to do this to me? Why do I have to go through this to me?"

"Seven stories of all in a very personal way - a way that we will not soon forget," Worthington said.

Worthington came to offer words of hope - Dr. Tim Gerde of Peakland United Methodist Church. He challenged the audience to let its faith soar.

"I want to uphold that, I am able to give," Gerde said.

The last major speaker was Misty Bernall, who also spoke at convocation on April 16.

"The final speaker, Larry Grant, was a past member of the Central Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, who is the father of current chapter chairman. Vice President Duke Grant, who hoped that the audience would avoid "pointing accusatory fingers but would rather provide hope and comfort and be a source for the community of Blacksburg.

"When first heard about泪水 were seen with tears - all of us, all the way to the end," Worthington said.

Contact Matthew Harper at mharper@liberty.edu.

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**In Memoriam:** April 16, 2007

**Memorials:** The last day of the year on VT.edu.

**Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund:** With free access to their favorite Virginia Tech men and women.

**Internet Reactions:** From around the world

"(We) prayed for our hearts to be filled with compassion and spiritual understanding," said the president. Arriving at the memorials, they found it heartreaching to see individuals honoring their loved ones.

"People kept telling up, I love you so much for doing this," Olson said.

"I cried," Olson said. "I cried, left my family for the first time, went to the memorial church service, went to the funeral, back to the memorial service."

"I think it's our duty as Christians to try to help. We should offer up their prayers, but they have no idea what kind of an impact they can have, and that's what it's all about," Olson said.

"Please pray for us, pray for us," Olson said.

Contact Amy Fields at afiel@liberty.edu.

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**Internet Reactions:** From around the world

By James Flaherty and Jessie Tang

"Something can express their feelings in pictures," said one of the students.

"I went because I knew that there was no way I could do anything for the people of Virginia Tech except pray," said Ellenburg. When she spent about five hours on the campus.

"I was how they were like 'sheep without a shepherd,'" Ellenburg said.

"Everyone was able to offer words of hope - Dr. Tim Gerde of Peakland United Methodist Church. He challenged the audience to let its faith soar.

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"Joy must overcome sorrow, and emptiness must once again become fullness," said one of the students.

"When news filtered in of shootings at Virginia Tech, several people sat down on the floor and cried, according to campus official. To others,

"Some of (my friends) updated their Facebook, Twitter accounts, searched for friends, family or just trying to get their own status.

At least two student-led vigils were put up on campus.

"The network site Facebook has been a virtual meeting ground for students looking for friends, family or just trying to get their story out," said one of the students.

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As a nation of Hokies heals...

ABOVE — President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visited one of the temporary memorials on the Drill Field, where they also signed the memorial. Bush wrote "God Bless" before signing his name.

LEFT — A group of students gathered to pray and sing "Amazing Grace" at the flagpole in front of Barbour Hall. Flags all over the country were at half-mast in respect for the victims of the tragedy.

RIGHT — More than 50,000 individuals attended a candlelight vigil on the Drill Field on the night of April 17. The crowd included members of the Corps of Cadets dressed in their traditional blue and white uniforms, families and other members of the Virginia Tech community. Candles were passed out to attendees and were lit as evening came.

BELOW — After the convocation began at 2 p.m. Sunday, Cassell Coliseum filled to capacity and many supporters filled surrounding areas such as Lane Stadium, where the service was being simulcast.

LEFT — A student signs the VT memorial on the Drill Field. Candles, roses, cards, and Virginia Tech memorabilia adorned the grass surrounding the memorial.

A message written on a blackboard hung on the left side of the "Y" quoted Romans 8:25.

RIGHT — A Virginia Tech student holds a sign on the field, her candle lit to support.

Many Tech students chose to stay on campus as classes resumed April 23. The administration gave students the option of taking their current grade and ending the year or continuing with their classes.
Joe Saunders stood in front of thousands of waiting fans, he the plate with a heavy heart was the only Hokie in the back of a helmet, athletes and major leagues, turned to face the world followed suit.

The rest of the sports world responded.

When tragedy strikes, the sports world responds. Whether it is a simple moment of silence before a game or a small symbol on the back of their helmets, athletes and coaches at all levels understand the importance of rational tragedies and have the ability to put them into perspective. They know that baseball or football games may be the only couple of hours in the past week, sports teams and organizations have honored and remembered the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting.

The Washington Nationals took the field on Tuesday evening, donning Virginia Tech athletic logos on the back of their helmets, maroon and black wristbands to honor the victims of Virginia Tech at the time of his tribute came from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro in South Conference leader Radford not once, but twice in the last week.

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the same" in game two, and that was exactly Saturday on their way to a 13-1 victory.

Stokes went seven innings and allowed one run on nine hits. For the second straight day, the Liberty recorded 1-4 hits.

Negron opened up the third inning with a triple and scored the plate after a Keller ground out to open the inning.

Radford tied the game in the top of the fourth for its only run of the game.

The Flames took advantage of three wild-pitches by Radford in the sixth and turn the game wide-open, scoring four runs to take an 8-1 lead.

Little-used freshman Cory Johnson took advantage of an opportunity in the eighth to add to Liberty's dilemma. The Highlanders countered with a two-run shot to the mound after just one inning of the first game.

In game three on Saturday, UNC-Greensboro picked up a season-high seven runs in the fifth, including a three-run shot to left field by Radford's starting pitcher off the mound after just one inning of the first game.

In the extra inning, senior Jessica Moore knocked a home run to center field, giving the Flames the early advantage of three runs. Moore quickly got on base in the bottom of the inning,Liberty pulled out a 4-2 victory. In game two, the Lady Flames attempted to present the Spartans from seeking revenge by putting Giammeresi on the board in the first inning.

In game three on Saturday, UNC-Greensboro countered with a wide-open, scoring four runs to take a 13-5 win.

UNC-Greensboro answered in the bottom of the inning with a solo homer to center field, which eventually extended the game into extra innings. In the extra inning, senior Dawn Jeffs and Moore quickly got on base for the Lady Flames. Williams then smacked a double, giving the Flames the early advantage of three runs.

Jeffs quickly got on base in the seventh, which led to a two-run homer from junior Shannon McKain. For the second straight day, after managing to lead the way, the Lady Flames grounded out the first two batters and lead back to the dugout uneasted.

The Flames scored four more runs in the bottom of the fourth, highlighted by Keller's sacrifice fly and center fielder Garrett Young's two-run double of the year. Down 8-2 heading into the fifth inning, Radford was able to cut the lead to 4-2. With a runner on third and only one out, Solbach was able to retire the final two batters and lead back to the dugout uneasted.

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Track sweeps Big South Championship

By Will Cooper

The Liberty Flames men's track team took off running this weekend and did not look back and cruised to an easy finish in the Big South Championship with 293 points. The Lady Flames came into a meet where they were expected to take third or maybe even second place, but instead fought a hard battle to emerge victorious as the number one team.

The last time Liberty captured both men and women's team titles was 2002. The Liberty men finished the tournament with a total of 248 points. Coastal Carolina placed a distant second with 174 points. The Coastal Carolina Chanticleers were expected to take third or even second place, but instead fought a hard battle to emerge victorious as the number one team.

The Lady Flames entered the tournament with a total of 248 points. Coastal Carolina placed a distant second with 174 points. Junior Josh McDougal had another stellar weekend, winning the 1,500-meter run with a final time of 4:06.84. He was the only Flame to win an event.

The men's 4 x 100 meter relay was an unexpected win with a time of 43.94 seconds. This win was the biggest win for the Flames, the focus is on the future. "It's a pretty big deal," said Hart. "As good as we've been in the past, you can take a step back and feel that this is the best team we've ever had. We've got bigger things in mind." Ricksecker agreed. "Momentum from this meet is really great," she said. "My number one goal is to get to nationals," said Henderson. "It's only going to get better," he said. "The Liberty men and women will return to action on April 26 in Philadelphia at the Penn Relays."

Contact Will Cooper at cooper@liberty. edu.

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We kept gaining momentum, and it just really kept going." Senior Ashley Zellinski spearheaded the effort, as she picked up 16 points in the high jump, 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles and the long jump. Zellinski was also honored as the female scholar athlete of the year, and the award was named to the women's Big South All-Academic team.

When the sun went down on Friday, the Lady Flames were only up by seven points on the defending champion Chanticleers. However, the first women's track event on Saturday gave them the confidence they needed to pull away from the pack.

The women's 4 x 100 relay team was actually running together for only the second time, but it was one for the record books. Sophomore Andrea Beckles, junior Charlene Hibbert, sophomore Tra' Storm and Zellinski not only set a facility and meet record but a Big South Conference record as they finished in 45.95 seconds. While this was a big win for the Flames, the focus is on the future. "It's a pretty big deal," said Hart. "As good as we've been in the past, you can take a step back and feel that this is the best team we've ever had. We've got bigger things in mind." Ricksecker agreed. "Momentum from this meet is really great," she said. "My number one goal is to get to nationals," said Henderson. "It's only going to get better," he said. "The Liberty men and women will return to action on April 26 in Philadelphia at the Penn Relays."

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The Flames' hard work paid off as they finished with 293 points, only 13 points ahead of second place Coastal Carolina.

"We were definitely the underdogs..." said McDougal, commenting on the performance by the Flames men and women. "It's definitely nice to set records," said Henderson. "It's a real answer to prayer, really," said Hart. "It was encouraging," said Hart. "It's always flattering to get a record."

Henderson was the only Flame to win an event. "It's a pretty big deal," said Hart. "As good as we've been in the past, you can take a step back and feel that this is the best team we've ever had. We've got bigger things in mind." Ricksecker agreed. "Momentum from this meet is really great," she said. "My number one goal is to get to nationals," said Henderson. "It's only going to get better," he said. "The Liberty men and women will return to action on April 26 in Philadelphia at the Penn Relays."

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FOOTBALL: Spy vs. Spy

Continued from page B1

After a shaky start with a few turnovers and deep passes, and suffering from being out of sync with his receivers, Smith settled down and contributed in a more impressive fashion downfield, coming of his performance.

He also showed poise under pressure by scrambling or throwing the ball away when trouble arose, though he did get sacked twice.

Regarding his new position as team captain, Smith gave credit where credit was due.

"God has given me a unique opportunity," said Smith.

"I wish we could express it. I'm so excited!" he added. "The relaxed pace of the game, he said, contributed to his early struggles. "We were unfair," he said, giving himself a "C" for performance.

Senior Steve Ray Lloyd was named defensive captain along with fellow senior Steve Ashley. According to Royce, Lloyd is "out as talker" as last year's defensive captain, linebacker Manny Rojas.

"I'm ready to lead us to a national championship," he said, pleased at the cohesion the defense is showing in its new formation since Rojas took over. "It's a whole lot easier (after a year)."

One area the team showed no difficulty in, the relief of the faithful fans, was the kicking game. Sophomore David Drake converted his one field goal attempt and did not miss a PAT.

Walk-on punter Dan Sterkoski was impressive as well, booting eight kicks down the field for an average of 46.8 yards per kick.

"He came out of speculations," said Royce. "He has the ability (to do great)"

In the end, the offense took advantage of the scoring system better than the defense, finishing with a score of 35-25.

Other offensive standouts included Wesley Cheek, who took eight carries for 47 yards and one reception for another 6.

Senior Brandon Turner led the receiving corps in catches, with four catches for 49 yards.

Junior Wyatt Jackson batted in two passes for 65 total yards.

At quarterback, back-up Spencer Landis completed eight of his attempts for 74 yards.

On defense, Lloyd turned out the best performance, with seven tackles and a forced fumble. Junior Pat Parsillo finished right behind him with six tackles.

Six other defenders registered tackles.

Overall, Royce has been impressed by the growth since spring training.

"We're in position to make a run," he said.

The Flames' 2007 season will officially begin on Sept. 1 in Lynchburg against Tu­

Contact David Thompson at dthompson@liberty.edu.

Tennis’ Randolph named Player of the Year as men, women fall in first round

History was made on Wednesday night as senior Jenta Randolph received the 2007 Big South Conference Player of the Year Award for women’s tennis.

No Liberty tennis player had previously won the award, which was given at the annual Big South Conference Tennis Banquet held at the Marriott Hotel on Radford University’s cam­

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Contact Amanda North at anorth@liberty.edu.

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SOUTH SHORE SADDLES — Sophomore Wesley Cheek rounds the corner during Saturday’s blue/white spring scrimmage. Cheek, who will back up Zach Terrell and Rashad Jennings at running back, had eight carries for 47 yards.

FOOTBALL: Spy vs. Spy

Continued from page B1

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Kinesiology professor Dr. David Horton encourages students to feel the burn

By Katelyn Fletcher

When Horton went off to college, he earned encouragement to feel the burn. He has maps with pins marking the trajectory of various routes, like a poster that says, "Run for fun," a moto that would make a runner feel the burn. But that's what Horton does—he runs for fun. As a professor of kinesiology at Liberty University, often shares with his class the importance of attaining. He is not about having fun, but rather having to run. This is Horton's passion. "I have to run. I want to run. I get to run," he said with conviction. The license plate of his red Toyota Sienna, which reads, "I LV2 RUN," reiterates his passion.

Amiee Lively, a student in his Kinesiology class, said, "He always amazes me with the passion and excitement he has in getting people to exercise. It is so inspiring, and he is a great professor who practices what he preaches. His abilities to his students, encouraging us to apply what we learn in the classroom to our own lives so that we can encourage others in the same way in our field of study." He said he would want to participate in the mind of his students all the best moments that have made running so fulfilling.

That is not the only reason Horton has encouraged students to accomplish things they never thought they could. "Oh, we've already been warned," I said. "Anybody can do it," Horton said. Horton has pushed Lively, as well, beyond what she ever thought she could handle. "I remember when I first heard of Dr. Horton's running class. My reaction was, 'I would have never thought of running the Mountain Masochist when I first started college,'" said Reaves, who completed the 50-mile race.

Karin Mitchell at kdmitchell2@ liberty.edu.

Contact Kari Mitchell at admin@ liberty.edu.
Arizona Tech convocation helps grieving process

By Erin Fitch

The convocation ceremony was held in the university's baker Auditorium, and with a limited capacity of only 7,000 seats, thousands more from the student body, faculty, family and others joined in solidarity from Lane Field, home of the Hokies.

On the third floor of the historic Chesapeake and Ohio parking lot, Radford University women's basketball coach Susan Scarbrough told her team she had to return to her community.

"I can't even imagine how you're feeling," she said. "You're still in little bits of shock."

As the ceremony finally wound to an end, the hymn "Amazing Grace" was transcribed at the huge student band standing, creating a sorrowful sound that echoed with sorrow and empathy from the nation's leaders.

"There are no words to express our sorrow and pain," Scarbrough said. "We have lost our Jobs, lives, homes."

"How are you?" one male student asked a female student who looked somber. "Still in little bits of shock."

"I saw crying," she said, "The tears were flowing. I went to high school with her. We were in AP Chemistry. It's real."

As the ceremony concluded, the students observed a moment of silence. As the world continued to pay homage to the fallen, thousands more from the student body, faculty, family and others joined in solidarity from Lane Field, home of the Hokies.

The convocation ceremony was held in the university's Baker Auditorium, and with a limited capacity of only 7,000 seats, thousands more from the student body, faculty, family and others joined in solidarity from Lane Field, home of the Hokies. On the third floor of the historic Chesapeake and Ohio parking lot, Radford University women's basketball coach Susan Scarbrough told her team she had to return to her community.

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American Red Cross requests help in Virginia Tech aftermath

by Natasha Kormanik

The American Red Cross visited Virginia Tech on Tuesday to meet with students about helping in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings. The Red Cross set up a booth for students to donate blood. With the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, the Red Cross extended their three-day visit to help students, faculty and the community.

"The American Red Cross is the largest supplier of blood nationwide," according to Bankston Clay, Red Cross Account Manager for Central Virginia. "Our objective is to provide critical blood to those hospitals and medical facilities that are in short supply, and provide shelter, food and counseling to victims and their families.

In addition, the organization helps with "emergencies, prevent, prepare and respond to emergencies," according to their website. The American Red Cross has already helped in over 5,000 disasters. In addition, people were able to learn first-aid skills, and U.S. service members separated from their families were able to stay in touch.

Regardless of how popular and well-attended your program or activity may be, it would be wise if you were to consider the possibility of the worst happening. The American Red Cross is there to help. What you do during a crisis can sometimes make a big difference in the life of a person. By participating in the American Red Cross, you're part of the solution.

LGH to host “Walk for Life” on April 28

by Rachel W. Swanger

The Liberty Godparent Home sponsors the 5K Walk for Life on Saturday, April 28, in the Liberty area. The walk is a 5K fundraising event for the Liberty Godparent Foundation. All proceeds will go to benefit the Liberty Godparent Foundation.

The walk will begin with check-in and registration at 10 a.m. The actual walk will begin at 11 a.m. The walk will begin at Liberty’s outdoor track. Liberty’s outdoor track will be the primary route for the walk. The walk can be done as an individual or team, or in any group. The walk will be a fun and challenging experience.

Bryant also stressed prayer for sponsors to be in partnership in financing the event. The corporate sponsor levels are Bronze $50, Silver $100, Gold $500 and Platinum $1,000. Pledges were received on or before April 14. All sponsors will be listed on all promotional items. According to Bryant, educating the campus and community about the Godparent Home is one of the primary concerns for all these events, and it will continue to be added support and effort for the LGH’s upcoming goals.

Contact Rachel W. Swanger at rwswanger@ liberty.edu.
The word was synonymous with words like "hooray" or "yeah."

Photography Editor Alex Towers, after flag-carrying black suburban truck passed by the lot that myself and the rest of my press team — well-garbed broadcasters leaned in over the circle of bowed heads and clasped hands that sang the chorus of "Amazing Grace."

"America the Beautiful" was sung by President Bush as residents hugged each other and talked on cell phones. Others were moved to tears that overflowed with sympathy for the Virginia Tech community.

"We’re all Hokies," said Alex Jones from his hospital bed in Fairfax on April 17, 2007. "Our spirit even in a dark day of optimism and community..."