Surviving Spring Fever
Life! pitches some fun ideas for the season of new beginnings.

All the world is a stage
For Linda Nell Cooper, drama is as much ministry as performance.

All about the benjamins
In an economy that is on a steady rise, the U.S. is coming up short on jobs. Opinion tells you why.

The Liberty Champion
SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR TWENTY YEARS
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Dr. Borek bids farewell
By Jerry Falwell
Dr. John Borek announced his resignation as President of Liberty University on Tuesday, last Wednesday. His departure marks a great loss for the university.

"He was a gold mine," Dr. Jerry Falwell said, hailing Borek's contribution to the university. "Dr. Borek has laid the foundation for academic excel-

Face page 9

formance and financial stability." Falwell made the announcement with obvious regret. He said that news of Borek's leaving came as a shock. He even noted that he had prayed God would allow Borek to stay.

Borek was simply in tears when he stepped to the podium to say goodbye to the Liberty family. "The Lord has woven so much great good in my life through you and in the grace that is given by you, Borek said. "This isn't really goodbye, I'm just going on another journey."

The announcement comes at a time when the university is undergoing dynamic, positive changes. There is no question that the school has improved under Borek's leadership.

"We owe a tremendous debt to our president of the last seven years," Falwell said. "We have a long history of financial stability and a great loss for the university. Through strategic planning and financial management, Borek has set the stage for a strong financial future with a budget. According to Jerry Fal­

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small part to Borek's financial conservative fiscal manage-

ment. According to Falweli Jr., serious concerns that too much

of Liberty's revenue was being used to make debt payments and, as a result, the university was neglecting its academic pro-

grams. According to Falweli Jr., three accreditation experts were retained as consultants "to help guide Liberty through the SACS accreditation reaffirmation process."

Please see BOREK, page 4

LU staff witness Christian martyr's oath in India
By Brandon Bryant
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By Chris Price

"I would then go kick it with my boys, Ben and Jerry. (That's ice cream for those of you who can't get past the fact that I said kick it with my boys. I am ashamed to have used that phrase!)."

"There's no way to describe it... it's life-stop­ping. Just a couple of thousand years... the power of Christ... the power of India is just unbeliev­able."

"Mom said.

Moore deported the crews and sent them in a place with statues on the side of the road and people living in huts and homesteads. As Moore made his way into the city he saw lined up these types of restaurants but conditions were still not very good for some of the people.

Moore suddenly found himself in calvogue shock as he got to the place. As he stepped off the train he was met by a "lit­tle five-year-old child staring up at death and begging." Moore was more surprised that there was a difference among Christians in India. "To see the difference to see their kind of contentment in their circumstances compared to what we complain about in the states... it was a world view shattered," Moore said. "It was culture shock in the extreme.

Despite the declining health and moral culture in India is still needed in India. "Ministry is people...it's not things," Moore said. "I just still close my eyes and see them in my head," Moore said of the people that he has seen. This particular mission trip was not the same business thing or construc­tion is taking place. Members of the team were entering a rough area where some of them even became sick on the trip as men­tioned earlier.

"This trip was focused much like some of Paul's trips, where he went from church to church to encourage and the brothers and those who were there and strengthened them the God had for them," Atchley said. They were able to teach the team was there to encour­age those taking the martyr's oath, they were going to be working and encouraging in some way to try to get the love of Christ in the church. And this was that willing to take a stand no matter what, even as he was toward death.

"I know that these men who were going to be working and encouraging in some way, the Gospel were going to be putting their lives on the line," Carson said. "I just don't think in those terms. But being a Christian in America is putting my life on the line."
GUATEMALA: Reaching hearts in an ancient culture

continued from page 1

The team was able to go into the village and attend church. It was not a traditional church; Catholic precepts intermingled with Mayan gods, but the villagers allowed the students to enter. "I was just praying the whole time that maybe we could shatter some of that messed up religion they had," said Robin Hackler. After their traditional rituals, the pastor allowed the team to take part in the service. As Guatemalan evangelist Carlos Vargas spoke the message of Christ in Spanish, which was then translated into the native language. The team also sang and performed a skit which showed the sacrifice of Christ. Well, it raised enough money to support the ministry for five to six weeks. "Ultimately, we were there to glorify God through our sacrifice and our service, not our selves," Murphy said.

"Nothing that we did was of any significance," Sperlazzo said. "It was His Holy Spirit working in us that made it significant."

The team was able to attend the local church which mixed Catholic and Mayan religions together. The team was allowed to take part in the service as Guatemalan evangelist Carlos Vargas preached the message of Christ in Spanish, which was then translated into the native language. The team also sang and performed a skit which showed the sacrifice of Christ.

"I just felt like we really got to show our hearts," Hackler said.

"Ultimately, we were there to glorify God through our sacrifice and our service, not our selves," Murphy said. While the team took part in many different ministries, they bought through fatigue and sickness to complete their mission.

The second city of the crusade was Gualan, where students ministered on an elevated sidewalk to those seated below. At each of the venues, the people were receptive and the Spirit of the Lord was evident at each. "Through the services, God taught me that His heart is for people," fresh­man Frank Spertazzo said. "It's not about us. It's totally about His Holy spirit."

"I just felt like we really got to show our hearts," Hackler said.

The team left. It raised enough money to support the ministry for five to six weeks. Because we will be held once a month and should be a sustaining factor for the orphanage.

Multi-city Outreach During three nights of the trip the team took part in an evangelistic crusade. Members sang songs of worship in English and Spanish, gave testimonies about their lives and performed skits to present the gospel. Crusades were held in those local villages in Llano Verde where the team stayed. In Chiquimula, the largest city in which a crusade was held, a portion of the team was able to attend the local church which mixed Catholic and Mayan religions together. The team was allowed to take part in the service as Guatemalan evangelist Carlos Vargas preached the message of Christ in Spanish, which was then translated into the native language. The team also sang and performed a skit which showed the sacrifice of Christ. When he had finished, the team sang and then performed a skit, which demonstrated the love and sacrifice of Christ.

The first bazaar was held the day the team left. It raised enough money to purchase a store and prepare for a small business. The second bazaar was held the day the team took part in an evangelistic crusade. The team added thousands of stock items to complete the project. The team spent a lot of time preparing shoes and clothing to be sold, but they also served the people through interpersonal labor.

"We did an immense amount of work and it was definitely worth it because all the proceeds went to the ministry," sophomore Philip Murphy said.

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KIDS AT PLAY: Two Guatemalan children, Sintia and Josecito, spent more time goofing off than eating. These children and others quickly stole the hearts of the 15 mission team. Crusades, outreach projects and services were all tools of ministry.

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Distinctively Different.
Borek helped to start the parade during his tenure at Liberty.

RIDING OFF—Dr. John Borek rides his Harley Davidson motorcycle during the annual Homecoming parade. Dr. Borek has stepped up his leadership during the university’s first seven years. "I have learned much from my association with Dr. John Borek," said David R. Falwell Jr., the former vice president for academic affairs. He now has the opportunity to serve as the university’s vice president for academic affairs, he now has the opportunity to serve as the university’s next president.

According to Falwell, Borek will be in contact with Liberty over the next few weeks learning “where all the buttons are.”

But Borek should find the position quite well. A retired Air Force General, Young had been a leader in the military for 24 years. Borek said he will still be right at home in Georgia able to reach out to the students and faculty.

In his place, Dave Young, a native of Georgia, will become the university’s new president.

Dr. Falwell has been an awesome asset to our faculty, staff. "Dr. Falwell has been an awesome asset to our faculty, staff. "He never gets tired of the students. He always has the time to help us with our problems."

But Borek said he will miss Dr. Falwell. "The students and faculty will effectively have the same leader in the years to come." According to Falwell, Rist, the former vice president for academic affairs, will be the university’s new president.

The university’s future leaders are at liberty with its reduced debt load and its association with Dr. John Borek.

BOREK: Leaving university better off than ever

The university’s future leaders are at liberty with its reduced debt load and its association with Dr. John Borek.
Linda Nell Cooper: LU's real stage star

By Raelle Landowski

Linda Nell Cooper: LU’S real stage star

According to Cooper, he then asked himself how could I

The most pleasing

the doom and gloom stories.

by 7.2 percent. In the Midwest, employment hiring percentage


MARCH 30, 2004

May be a possible

Jobs in the process of

students with a bachelor's
degree include employers in
mechanical engineering,
education, accounting, have a
best of opportunities available
with a wireless device.

2004 LU graduates

By Rudi Linderholm

For graduating seniors
the下去 Jakob has already
set in. However, there are some
enormous facts that the Career
Center shared at the Job Outlook Workshop, held on
March 27. The Career Center based their data on the
National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and
the Wall Street Journal. "Unemployment has dropped, and
there's a 12.3 percent increase on employers hiring
college graduates," Trisha Tolar, Director of the Career
Center, said. NACE reported that the top
reasons that employers hire new graduates is to find
future leaders of organizations and also because new
graduates are enthusiastic, moti-
icated and provide fresh ideas.
Along with these optimistic
stats, many Liberty students have
job opportunities lined up.
"Holy Smith, a government
major with a specialization in
politics and policy, has two
job prospects lined up after
graduation at the SAIC.
SAIC (Scientific Application
International Corporation) hosted at the Fort
Bleeker Naval Base near
Bloomington, Ill. "I hope the
opportunity with the foreign
military sales division and
the government contractor," Smith said.
Smith's other option is to work
for a congressman in Washington, D.C.
that opened up through the inter-
"I would prefer to go to D.C.
because I think it would give
me more opportunity in use
my degree, and it's more along
the lines of what I'm interested
in," she said.
But even the students who
don't have plans immediately
are looking at the jobs, 95 percent of
them have some sort of a plan,
Smith said. "I hope I have a job lined up
so I don't have to go back to
school," said psychology major
Austin Deirdre. "I'm in the process of apply-
ing to graduate schools. I would like to get a job, but if
any school would be paid for, I wouldn't have a job lined up
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SA works on building relationships

By Mya Maynard

In past years, the Student Government Association is known for many changes.

Some years, they were very viable, making frequent convocation appear­ances.

This year, the organization wants to get back to the basic mission of the SGA to "serve the University, stu­dents and community for the better­ment of God's Kingdom".

Coming into this school year, many newly elected SGA staff made it their goal to build relationships with stu­dents and the administration so that the student's needs could be met more efficiently.

While these goals may not be "glamorous," according to SGA president, senior Brian Fraser, they are fundamental in building a strong structure for the future.

"If we're trying to reverse the trend that has been the last three years here within the Student Government Association," Fraser said, "we're trying to build it back into what it's supposed to be, instead of trying to ride a lame horse."

While the SGA's efforts have been more behind the scenes, their enduring motivation to redefine the structure of the government has rendered them more effective for the student body as a whole.

Their greatest accomplishment so far this year is the students as well as the administration have been established with the administration, and the strong relationships in turn allow greater student responsibil­ity.

The SGA reaches out to the stu­dents as well as in order to build and maintain responsibilities. Student input is greater from the resulting group, as well as the student court and other various committees under the SGA.

Unfortunately, the problem remains that many students are out of the SGA's activities and therefore regard it with some nega­tive opinion.

"Our ability to mass communi­cation to the students is an effective way to reach them. Our staff is very limited and we have not been able to find a medium that suffi­ciently gives us the opportunity to handle student concerns on a regu­lar basis. That's one thing that we'll need to do as the school grows but that's something we have to work with instead of a medium. It's a responsibility they have to give us," Fraser complained.

The SGA, though often very vis­ible in working stu­dents, they lost interest. Their future.
MARCH 30, 2004

"As we have witnessed so clearly in recent years, advances in technology have enhanced the growth of productivity, which, in turn, has been essential to lifting our standards of living."

A question many Americans find themselves asking, given the recent economic surge, is why aren’t new jobs being created?

In a speech in Virginia this week, President Bush called for new jobs. He, along with other economists, has said that the loss in capital from outsourcing doesn’t result in unemployment, but rather a reduction in wages. This causes the people to have less income, but the same mortgages and debts, causing the upward mobility to collapse.

A question many Americans find themselves asking is why aren’t new jobs being created? Since the start of the recession in early 2001, 2.7 million jobs have been lost. Only 364,000 new positions have been created since last September.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in February, 400,000 new jobs were created. This seems like a good sign for the American economy. After all, it usually consumer spending that drives the job market, but this recent spending hasn’t generated the anticipated amount of new jobs expected.

The gross domestic product has followed suit as well. The GDP is the value of all goods and services produced. The 2.7 percent increase from the previous three-month span, ranging from October to December of 2003, was the third straight year of double-digit increases. This trend is supposed to continue, while the average affordable rate of health insurance is only nine percent.

Since the start of the recession in early 2001, 2.7 million jobs have been lost. While 2.7 million new jobs have been created.

Here is a vital component to a full economic recovery. In the current jobless situation, I have just two words for us-“Be patient.” It is only a matter of time until new jobs are created. The early 1990s economic recovery saw two years of growth in consumer spending before new jobs were generated.

In the current jobless situation, I have just two words for us-“Be patient.” It is only a matter of time until new jobs are created. The early 1990s economic recovery saw two years of growth in consumer spending before new jobs were generated.

Some people are blaming the lack of jobs on different occupations. Mainly it has been consumer spending that caused recessions in the past. America must continue to spend the money it has to bolster the U.S. economy. Consumer spending is said to account for two-thirds of all U.S. economic activity. This is a vital component to U.S. economic recovery.

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While everyone is looking for new ways to generate jobs, one must first look at the reasons why we are in the midst of our current jobless recovery and what it will take to pull us out of it.

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Following September 11, Americans were encouraged to keep spending like they had in the past, and we didn’t. Consumer confidence was down for 18 straight months after September 11. We are still feeling the effects.

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America just needs to keep spending. After all, consumer spending drives job generation.

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To be a musician. They can touch people’s hearts and make them happy.

-Jeff Kuenemann, Jr.
Ocean City, N.J.

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I wish I could play basketball so that I can have a shoe named after me and make instant millions.

-Tai Adeyemi, Fr.
Baltimore, Md.

I wish I could play basketball so that I can have a shoe named after me and make instant millions.
Tragedy shocks Spain as voters head for the polls

The tragic train bombings in Madrid only a few weeks ago marked a sad day in history when approximately 200 people were killed or injured in a violent act of terrorism against the Spanish people. Following the bombings, the voters in Spain did away with the governing Partei and elected a socialist prime minister. Unfortunately, the new prime minister of Spain was an emotional and controversial leader who did not have the support of the United States in the battle against terrorism. The Americans were concerned that the new prime minister of Spain, Jose Luis Rodrguez Zapatero, would support the Iraq war, which the United States in the battle against terrorism.

The decisions of the voters in Spain made amid deep sadness and confusion over the tragic bombings that had just occurred. An article in USA Today by Samuel Loewenberg published three days after the bombings detailed the harry out- breaking of events following the tragic attack. The representative for Spain’s Popular Party, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, had worked to build a good relationship with President Bush and the United States. This caused Spain to be a close ally during the war in Iraq. By supporting Bush, Aznar ignored the future that Spain should have had in the battle against terrorism.

Despite Aznar’s disregard for the people’s passion, he was also the one to win the election for Spain’s new prime minister showed that the voters were ready for a change. A new candidate from the Popular Party, Mariano Rajoy, won the election, four trains were blown up in Madrid causing great devastation and anger. Unfortunately, the voters in Spain elected the socialist candidate, Jose Luis Rodrguez Zapatero, as the new prime minister of Spain. There are multiple problems with and consequences for this decision.

The first place, it is obvious that the people of Spain are now divided. As Americans, we remember the attacks on September 11th and how our country was united. The people in Spain were deeply divided because of the attacks in Madrid, which is understandable. There were only a few days between the attacks and the voting, so the people did not have enough time to process all that was going on. Emotions were amazing helped to sway some to totally change their political decision in a matter of days while the horror and shock was still fresh.

The people may or may not have been thinking clearly, and they made a vital national decision before the time for the attacks could definitely be placed on any one. There was different information about whether the attacks were the fault of a Spanish terrorist group or if the attack was the work of Qaeda. Qaedas were responsible for the attacks, then the people could not understand that changes were going on with their country’s involvement in the Iraq war because it was the day of terrorism. But the voters did not know who the perpetrators were when they were in the polls. This and the shock from the grimness of the attacks made the voter’s decisions understandable.

It is important to note that Spain was not an appropriate organization for their country’s involvement in the Iraq war. A majority of the voters in Spain went off to war almost a year ago. If Al Qaeda was causing great devastation and anger, then the people should not blame Prime Minister Aznar for his alliance with the United States and the subsequent train bombings. Despite the emotional and understandable unfounded decisions of the Spanish voters, seeking to change the fact that the Socialist Zapatero is now the prime minister and the world must suffer the consequences of Spain’s involvement.

In the face of this crisis, we must address the differences of the GSA and the BSA. The BSA has a long history of attacking the GSA for being a failure. The BSA is a rapidly growing organization that incorporates Christian values, and it has long been a target of terrorist attacks in Madrid. The BSA should be applauded for its unwavering support of its valuable traditions. The BSA has now embraced a politically correct and more inclusive organization that has not yet been affected by the tragic events of the past few weeks.

Many GSA and BSA leaders have turned their attention to the future and the changes that are happening in the world. They have turned to the gospels and the teachings of Jesus Christ. They have turned to the Bible and the words of Christ. They have turned to the heart and the heart of Christ. They have turned to the love of Christ and the love of Christ.

The GSA was founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, who envisioned an organization that would serve to liberate young women who were confined to the domestic sphere. By 1920, the GSA was a recognized institution in America that included leadership in education, book and constitution. Despite being established with a strong emphasis on Christianity, the GSA has now embraced a politically correct approach. The BSA has had a long history of attacking the GSA for being a failure. The BSA is a rapidly growing organization that incorporates Christian values, and it has long been a target of terrorist attacks.

The GSA was a failure in the eyes of the public. The GSA was not an appropriate organization for their country’s involvement in the Iraq war. The GSA was not an appropriate organization for their country’s involvement in the Iraq war. The GSA was not an appropriate organization for their country’s involvement in the Iraq war. The GSA was not an appropriate organization for their country’s involvement in the Iraq war.

In 1993, the GSA amended their constitution to allow for the inclusion of all people, including lesbian scout leaders and girls. The BSA has also made it clear that they are supporting all people, including lesbian scout leaders and girls. The BSA has also made it clear that they are supporting all people, including lesbian scout leaders and girls. The BSA has also made it clear that they are supporting all people, including lesbian scout leaders and girls.

"Whereas the BSA represents the purer form of the values, the GSA represents the perversion of moral and social values, and the BSA does not have a lack of family values."
Your first weekend off in a month is here, and you want to get away from the town...obviously not Lynchburg’s town! Some students stick around, especially if it’s nice out...I’ll go to the park, play basketball or have a cookout with some friends,” said psychology professor June Vess.

But when it’s cold and rainy, instead of setting for another night at home watching reruns of Family Guy, load up your car and make the 60 minute trek to Roanoke, for something new and out of the ordinary.

The month of April offers sporting events every Friday and Saturday night, whether it’s the Roanoke Express challenging the Petersburg Generals or a game of hockey or the Roanoke Dazzle vs. Fayetteville in an exciting game of basketball.

Roanoke Express is actually one of the top teams in the league. If you’re looking for some interesting but inexpensive," said sophomore Cindy Warren said. "After visiting Thailand, I found myself craving the food. I was one of those students that would drive the hour and a half for Roanoke, but now, it’s good to have Thai ‘99 right in town.

Thai 99 in Downtown Lynchburg. Thai ‘99 is located at 21 Wadsworth Street, on the Hill. Thai 99 is open Monday – Saturday for lunch, 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., and dinner, 5:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. They are closed on Sundays. Thai ‘99 offers their whole menu as take-out as well, stop in or call ahead. However you get it, try Thai ‘99.

If you’re looking for a great steak, with medium spice...it was delicious. I ordered the Thomas Cooney. For a more interesting but inexpensive,” said sophomore Amy Jordan.

On the other hand, if you’re thinking of my upcoming trip to Italy. As I’m writing this column, I’ll be sitting in class, trying to focus on the material, and I’ll find myself thinking of my upcoming trip to Italy. I’m inclined to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and for some great pictures that you can expect once i search for http://www.daymemorial.info/

All of these attractions have some sort of involvement so be sure to bring some extra cash, or what are you waiting for? Forget about the dollar theater and the mall. Pack a lunch, head some friends into the car and get out of Lynchburg for an adventure.

amijordan

Springtime distractions

The world is a beautiful place right now. As I’m writing this column, the air is crisp, there’s fog blowing in, and my heart is light. There is absolutely nothing about spring that I don’t like. I simply make no content with the world except what I should be getting attention to. I’ll be sitting in class, trying to focus on math, and I’ll be thinking of my upcoming trip to Italy. When I’m bound and determined to get that research paper written, my mind will start wandering to a meet conversation with a friend, or even simply to the diet vanilla coke calling “out my name from Boston. I really want to be focused on the novel I’m supposed to be reading, or my grammar homework, but I just can’t help but think about the spring fever that is coming next month.

I am an extensively happy person. March is the month that has me in a happy mood. It it’s one of that one of my favorite vacations in class is going to Roanoke. We should go up there now.

Anyone who is around me for a short period of time is familiar with the phrases, “He deserves to be left with someone absolutely fabulous,” or “I really want her to be with someone amazing” because they are relativley to the person, I love you and care for you, but I have to study. I have to do all of those things. I can’t help but think about the spring fever that is coming next month.

I genuinely make me happy to see all of the newly developing springtime romances. Even when I was single, couples in the spring held a special place in my heart. If you do happen to be in a relationship of your own right now, take advantage of the increasingly pretty weather with your guy or girl.

For those of you who aren’t currently in the midst of springtime romance, I strongly encourage you to be open to something in this season of new beginnings. Days, take advantage of the season and follow up with the girl you’ve been admiring the entire semester.

Goethe said, “Baldness has genius, power and magic in it.” So be bold. The time is pandering, and I’ll be sitting here with my friends who sit next to me every day while I’ve been waiting for you to blow your affection over her. You just don’t know until you ask.

So enjoy your spring. When the beautiful weather and the spring fever start getting you, do something fun, indulge in a little bit of romance. You just might be glad you did.

By Emily Sickle

LIFE REVIEW

Relaxing for the day in Roanoke

By Gomi Poplaski

LIFE REVIEW

Surviving Spring Fever

Try a taste of Thailand

By Cara Fritz

LIFE REVIEW

Take a glimpse into the past

By Cami Poplaski
By Pat Doney

One of these years I will not make a fool of myself. Yes, my friend, there will come a day when I will look like an omniscient mind, dwelling in a feeble human body. But until that day, every time spring approaches I will look for ward to humiliation. March, and the madness it brings, has forever scarred my pile. I am the sports fan that loses my pride. I am the sports fan that loses. But that doesn’t mean I won’t be able to understand. It’s just that you cannot learn about picking winners in the pool every year: HEAR ME ROAR!!!

It all begins with the bracket buster teams. I never will be able to understand. But if there is one thing that I have learned about picking winners in the NCAA tournament, it is that you cannot learn about picking winners in the pool every year: HEAR ME ROAR!!!

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The beating is intense and the heartache can be unbearable, but somehow I find a way to look myself in the mirror. When I ask myself, "What am I doing?" I realize that there is something I can do to make the situation better. I reach out to others, friends and family, to help me through this difficult time. I find solace in the support of my loved ones, knowing that they are there for me when I need them the most.

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Liberty participant that took the top four places in the pole vault.

Rhode and Williams both won four olympic gold medals in 1976. The weekend before spring break, the Liberty team competed at the NCAA men's indoor track and field championships, which were held in late February. The team performed well, earning several victories and establishing personal bests in several events. The best performer at the meet was Wally Johnson, who set a new school record in the decathlon, finishing 5235 points after the seven events. Johnson's performance was impressive and earned him the victory in the decathlon.

The team continued the first week of prac-tice with first organized scrimmage on Saturday in the practice field. While rain greeted the team on Saturday, it didn’t dampen the offense. The defensive unit looked very sound while producing big hitting plays and intercepting two passes.

Tiny knives and a curb of duct - Flames running back gets tackled on a shaded field while other defenders continue to work over the drive to stop the game.

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Women's track star and leader

Danielle McNaney:

"Maybe it is the flying through the air part." Danielle (Dani) McNaney a 5'6 junior from Boonsboro, Maryland explains in why the high jump was her favorite event in the heptathlon.

McNaney's first reply was "whichever one I'm doing well on" while as her one time 9th grade coach. "I'm going to win this race." I was all cocky but I didn't believe in myself."

During her high school career. "The summer after my freshman year was when I was 5'6 and doing competitive track during the summers kept McNaney busy. Right after I graduated from high school and after I came here, I never thought I'd be doing this."

According to McNaney her growth as an individual, not just as an athlete. "I went down to Oral Roberts University and Liberty. After visiting both of those schools and after seeing how hard it was to make a decision. "I knew that I wanted to go to a Division I school. I was choosing between Oral Roberts University and Liberty. After visiting both of those schools, I realized that this team relies on the people on my team. They are underneath me. When you are on a team, you learn how important encouragement is and how important your teammates are." Like many athletes, McNaney started out because she loved sports. "But I did not do as well as I had hoped. "I have been able to develop leadership skills that I never needed before."

Last year, unfortunately, McNaney was hit with an injury that basically killed her entire season but it was open enough that she was given the chance to grow spiritually. "I learned a lot about dependence on God and not on my natural ability because it was taken away from me. Therefore I learned to depend on God, that is when He blessed me."

Dependence is not the only quality McNaney has. "I have always been a quality that has become a key ingredient of the women's track team. Especially when the season is so long, when you start in August and go through spring, you learn how important encouragement is and how important your teammates are."

With even such a long season, McNaney has been able to keep herself motivated. This includes pushing the doors to physically push herself every day. "To be one of those people who enjoy doing what I do," McNaney said. "There are days when I don't feel like coming out. But I am a firm believer that hard work has given me the talent that I have, and I'm responsible for doing the things that are underneath me. When I go to college, I will take it with me."

McNaney has been able to give herself moments during her high school career. "The summer after my junior year was the first time I placed. I had been doing summer track and going to nationals forever, but never placed!" After placing in two events McNaney knew "that was the thing that I had worked the hardest for and finally accomplished."

When looking at universities, McNaney knew that she wanted to go to a Division I Christian school. She chose being admitted to Oral Roberts University and Liberty. After visiting both schools, the coaching situations had a huge impact on her decision. "It went down to ORU and wasn't overly impressed with the coaching."

McNaney had opposite feelings about Liberty's staff. "Coach Tolomia was very很open and very open about me as an individual, not just as an athlete."

But McNaney, the coaching have not been the only good part about being at Liberty. "For the track, my favorite part of Liberty is that there is a family part of the track. We are like a family, much closer than my team in high school. Even on the men's side, we're all just one big family."

McNaney saw this team atmosphere, this camaraderie, early in her career. "My freshman year was the first year that the girls almost lost Big South. The uppersclassmen really pushed us underneath their wings and showed us what we needed to do."

"Every year that I've been here, the women's track has been expected to love and come close to nationals," McNaney said. "But I knew that we were serious underdogs going into the Big South Championship. But finished in first place and came back to hope God goes lucky for us. People will have a bad day and somebody else will have a great day."

Being part of a team that has won championship has created "a lot of pressure to live up to in the mind of McNaney. "Every year you just put as much pressure on yourself as you can and as hard as it never gets old because there is always that chance that you are going to lose."

McNaney has learned what it means to work hard on the track, but there are more things that she has been able to apply to life. According to McNaney her growth as an individual comes a lot through track. "Track brought me to the all the way to Virginia when my home is in Kansas. I had to grow up and mature and deal with responsibilities that come with being so far away." As many seniors figure out, the first time they leave home, "I became more independent and more outgoing."

Through track McNaney has learned to develop leadership skills that she never needed before. "I was there to take care of my own. In college, the seniors soon taught McNaney that it was their problem. I was there to take care of myself."

"I'm a firm believer that God has given me the talent that I have...it is my responsibility to develop it." McNaney has been able to give herself more opportunities to do this. McNaney "I am a firm believer that God has given me the talent that I have, and I'm responsible for developing it."

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Another year will be added to the already impressive banners that swing from the rafters in the Vines Center. The Lady Flames captured the Big South Championship on March 13, extending the streak to eight straight years. Breaking Radford's Big South record of seven straight from 1991 - 1996. The top-seeded Lady Flames battled the seventh-seeded Birmingham-Southern Lady Panthers in the all important final game.

With spring break starting the day before the Big South Final, the Lady Flames were determined to spend their week off at the beach. However, the Lady Flames shut the door late in the game. Palaimaite also celebrated her senior year in so many different ways. "I'm so thankful for these seniors that have really established themselves with the program."

Birmingham-Southern was led by Boyett with 13 points. Brooke Gentsch helped the Lady Panthers with eight rebounds. BSC made a great run to the final game as a seven seed to finish an injury laden season.

The Lady Panthers' defeated UNC-Asheville and Coastal Carolina before being stopped by the Lady Flames. The Lady Flames defeated Winthrop and Radford to reach the championship game.

The Lady Flames left Lynchburg with a ticket to the big dance. Their first round dance partner was Georgia. The Lady Flames defeated Winthrop and Radford to reach the championship game.

The 18 school tournament provided the Flames with some tough competition, which saw Armstrong, Atlantic State, Georgia Southern, Old Dominion, Richmond, Old Dominion, Georgia or Washington D.C.

The Flames went on to win by a score of 151 and a top 20 slot. In their second tournament of the year, the Flames picked an eight place finish behind the efforts of Dickinson at the King's Island/Williams & Mary Invitational, held in Williamsburg, Va.

Dickinson shot an eight over par score of 126, good enough for a 16th place finish overall. Carey followed right behind with a score of 131 and a top 20 slot. The total team score for the two-day tournament was 61 strokes. That put them 26 shots behind tournament winner Georgetown University.

In their first competition since last October, the Liberty golf team finished in a tie for seventh place at the Jimmie rock Golf Tournament, in Savannah, Ga. with a three-day team total of 828 strokes.

The Lady Bulldogs scored the game's first nine points before Andrea Dawson lay-up put the Lady Flames on the board. Liberty played well the rest of the first half. Kristal Tharp had a three-pointer with 5:14 remaining in the half to cut the lead to only two, 17 - 19. However, the Lady Bulldogs closed out the half back to nine, 20 - 30, at the end of the first half. Georgia showed why they were a three seed in the second round opened. Only 16 strokes. In an opening round 301, James Hendrick led Rollins with 3 strokes. The Lady Bulldogs struggled to hang with Georgia's suddenly explosive offense and found themselves down 25 points. The Lady Bulldogs went on to win by that same margin of 25, 78 - 53.

The loss ended the Lady Flames season, one that saw them reach their eighth straight conference championship. The team will lose four invaluable players in Dawson, Leonard, Palaimaite, and Crystal Peace, all of whom are graduating.

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David Dees scores 22 points in a loss to top-ranked Hawks

By Ben Cates
The Liberty men’s basketball team ended its season in a clash with Saint Louis University March 18. The Flames fell to the Billikens 82-63 in front of the Scalzi Center. Dees was 3-4 from three-point range. Buffalo, N. Y.

In the first round game. The St. Joe’s star netted 33 points in his best shootout. The Flames found out from beyond the arc. Ryan Dunton did. "You have to be there to know how to handle it."

Liberty is on the bubble after almost a two-week loss. After winning its second Big South Conference tournament, the Flames fell to the NCAA tournament on March 18. The Flames were 3-4 from three-point range. Buffalo, N. Y.

But in the second half, the Flames were a different team. Although they never got closer than an 18-point margin, they played tough. At the outset of the half, the Flames attempted to increase their lead even more, going up by 19. But Dees shot 50 percent for the half, held St. Joe’s to 41 percent from the floor, and was 3-4 beyond the arc. Delonte West also helped to score the Flames by adding 18 points of his own. Deese’s leadership was evident in the loss. They played a game that was this wasn’t enough for the Flames. St. Joe’s went on a 19-point run in the second half to put them up 25. But Liberty kept fighting back, and the Flames cut the deficit to 19, but played St. Joe’s in the second half, outscoring them 36-35.

An interesting statistic is one comparing the Flames to nationally ranked teams. St. Joe’s defeated the Flames on a final record of 18-14. 1° Big South play, they went 12-4, and 2-2 in conference. The Flames are still happy with the accomplishments of the season.

But it was more than that. The program will continue to see some real roots. You’ve got some roots in this program here in the future. Who knows what can happen about that. Talent will continue to grow, no question there either, and where they would play in the tournament.

The team has absolutely nothing to lose. They aren’t assumed. They were beaten badly, but failed to give up. They went on a 19-point run in the first half, and they were down by 19, but played St. Joe’s in the second half, outscoring them 36-35.

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The team has absolutely nothing to lose. They aren’t assumed. They were beaten badly, but failed to give up. They went on a 19-point run in the first half, and they were down by 19, but played St. Joe’s in the second half, outscoring them 36-35.

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After a rough start, the season begins to round into a fine shape
Flames post a 5-3 record over spring break, giving them an overall record of 11-12 heading into this week.

Three new coaches highlight start of spring season

The Liberty University football team began its preparation for the upcoming football season last week as they started spring drills. After a 6-6 record last year, the team feels that the program is on the rise and ready for a break out year. With 24 seniors to be players participating in spring drills, the coaching staff knows that it could be a special year for the Flames in 2004.

The Flames were on shutouts, winning two, and allowing no runs on five hits. Liberty added two more runs in the sixth and added some insurance with two more runs in the eighth, ending the game 9-5.

Chris Zoricik took the win, allowing a strong performance in six innings of relief, giving up only two hits while striking out seven.

Liberty cruised to a second win in Monday's game, leading the entire game and finishing with a score of 14-5. Senior Jon Spence took the win, pitching seven innings, allowing only one run on three hits, and striking out six. Inconsistent weather postponed Tuesday's game against the Fordham Rams, but the Flames swept the double-header played on Wednesday.

Matt Hensler led the Flames in an easy 9-1 win in the first game, pitching six innings, allowing no runs on four hits, and striking out six. Hensler leads the Flames in wins this far in the season with three victories.

In game two, the bottom of the second led to Fordham's demise as the Flames rallied in for three runs. Liberty added nine more in the bottom of the sixth when Ryan Hughes and Philip Launet were both walked with the bases loaded.

The Flames won the game with a score of 9-1.

David Bedford put another win under his belt, going six innings, striking out four, and allowing no runs on five hits.

Liberty took the first game of three against Ball State in dominant fashion.

Final Thought
A reflection on the season that produced champs

Pat Doney loves and hates "NCAA Bracketeering"

Bottom Line

Pat Doney loves and hates "NCAA Bracketeering"

Three new coaches highlight start of spring season

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