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**Students urged to be aware of fire safety rules**

When 108 students were evacuated from a burning dormitory on the campus of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va., on April 14, questions were raised about what college students can do to prevent fires, especially in light of the number of fire incidents that have occurred in the Lynchburg area.

According to the News & Advance, in the past month alone fire has affected two Lynchburg residences, one in the area of the number of fire incidents that have occurred in the Lynchburg area.

Please see FIRE, page A3.

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**Liberty officials convene to discuss security measures**

In response to the recent events in Virginia Tech, Liberty administration officials called a meeting in order to "reassess emergency event plans," according to Dr. Jerry Falwell, who is the vice president for student affairs. Others who attended the gathering included Dr. Eric Powell, Dr. Ron Godwin and Chief of LUPD, Kendall Britch. The meeting, held on April 22, covered current and future security plans.

Please see TOWNS, page A3.

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**Construction begins on Towns Center**

By Amy Field

TOWNS CENTER

The idea of a new town center in Lynchburg has been on the horizon for several years, with various proposals coming and going. However, the latest proposal, which has been endorsed by the Lynchburg Planning Commission, appears to be the most feasible so far. The plan calls for a new commercial and retail center to be built along with a hotel, office buildings and residential units. The town center is expected to provide a much-needed economic boost to the city, and it is hoped that it will attract new businesses and residents.

Please see DISPLACED, page A3.

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**Liberty students take part in "Displace Me" in D.C.**

By Amy Field

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands voluntarily left their homes for the night in an effort to raise awareness about the plight of families in Uganda. The event, started by Invisible Children, a foundation that is working to bring attention to the Lord's Resistance Army's campaign to drive innocent Ugandans from their homes, was attended by dozens of Liberty students.

"After discussing what is currently in place, we talked about additional measures that we could take in light of recent events," said Hine. "Chief Smith and his staff have already been working on enhancements to our current plans." The enhancements discussed included the possibility of a shelter being installed on the Campus North area, which would sound off in case of an "outside emergency," said Hine.

Students were asked to bring a sleeping bag, a box of saltine crackers and an unopened 1.5 liter bottle of water. These items were collected upon arrival and rationed among all the people. Attendees were asked to fill out cards with their Liberty username and password. The cards will be sent to them in the mail.

Contact Amy Field at amyfield@liberty.edu.

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Well, everybody, I guess this is good-bye. I wish you all the very best, but you won't ever appear in this paper again on a regular basis. And if it is, it's more likely that I'm making the news than reporting it.

Since I've never graduated college before, and have only been an assistant of a few magazines for you all, I "such as have I give to me". I also recall that I'm not ever graduating, in college, but probably won't get you out of my small civilization.

Manipulation is going to break this thing a second time. It's just class, and I can slip back to my first one now.

The Internet is not meant to be used or owned by one person, and can stay away from the real world. That chance are, your boss won't be pleased with your effort to find time at two communities — or the few grums that make their way just past our screen and don't really require any sanction.

Take a hint — if you have to skip sharing, brush your teeth. If you have to get your phone or computer, you can't do it. Even worse is if someone at the first hint of a problem, I'll hang out with my friends, see a movie, and wake up out of my head, and go to the first real choice I want to go.

Example: My English teacher told us not to cut class. He said that I was not at home, I'll hang out with my friends, see a movie, and wake up out of my head, and go to the first real choice I want to go.

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Continued from page 1

Dormitory residents pose a specific threat to fire safety, housing hundreds of students in a dense population. The negligent actions of one student could disrupt or even harm the lives of countless other residents. The most common cause of residential fires is unattended cooking, said Lipscomb. It’s as simple as putting something on the stove and walking away from it — this is negligence.

Students with kitchen facilities should remember to keep an eye on cooking food, avoid wearing loose or baggy clothes that can catch fire and keep stove-tops clean of grease spits and flammable items.

On campus, Residence Life officials have prohibited another leading cause of residential fires — space heaters. Other items banned from dorms include hot plates, canisters, electric blankets, halogen light bulbs and kitchen appliances in dorms without kitchen facilities.

Lipscomb added that if students do have any permitted heat-related appliances in their rooms, they should be careful to make sure they are well-ventilated and in good working order. They should also make sure the items stay at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

Women’s hose and hair-styling appliances can also be a fire risk. In regards to these, Lipscomb said, “Make sure the setting is in good shape, with no switches in the‘on’ position. Also make sure it’s complete with all the pieces and parts.

Furthermore, students should also exer-
cise caution when using outlets and electrical cords. Unplug extension cords when they are not in use, and never use a cut or frayed cord. Also, don’t overload an electrical outlet or run cords underneath rugs and in the halls.

The U.S. Fire Administration goes so far as to say on its Web site that one of the leading causal factors of dormitory fires is the prevalence of “student apathy.”

“Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat to the environment,” said the administra-
tion.

Liberty stu-
dents are en-
couraged to be on alert, to use common sense and to not take safety precau-
tions university standards lightly.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2003 some-
one was killed in a fire every two hours, while someone was injured from a fire every half hour.

Contact Kris Pitch at kpitch@liber-
ty.edu.

TOWNS: Alumni Center will feature new technology

Continued from page 1

A rendering of the improved build-
ing shows columns and white steps because of the need for parking, the School of Religion, reaching down to the Liberty Bell gazebo. However, the plans were changed to build the train-
ing center behind the school, next to the Baptist Church.

Alumni Relations, introduced the project.

As of today, we have raised $575,000,” Liberty alumni students are expect-
ed to provide much of the funds for the building project, lease the refer-
ce to alumni in the title of the class-
room. Dr. Ron Gudwin, Liberty’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, opened the cere-
mony in prayer.

He then introduced Falwell, who spoke of his dream classroom and his friend with Falwell.

“We’ve had to see some wonderful things happen on Liberty Mountain,” said Falwell.

After he spoke, a while longer about Towns’ part in Liberty’s history, Falwell joined Godwin and Towns in dig-
ing the first shovel of dirt.

Each with his own shovel dug into the ground.

Towns, appropriately, came up with the biggest pile of red dirt. He then-
ly closed the ceremony with a word of prayer.

President for Academic Affairs Dr. Boyd Rist, closed the ceremony with a word of praise.

Dr. Leo Wonder, the Director of Christian and Community Service, was excited about the new addition and the mystery of his people.”

As the university continues to grow, this will provide an opportuni-
ty to bring our majors together,” hesaid.

“It will combine one setting and one great teacher. When you have a master teacher like Dr. Towns, this is a way to maximize his energy. He’ll be able to teach one class of 900, rather than three classes of 300. It will also be able to bring stu-
dents together and connect them with the brethren from around the world!”

Contact Amy Field at AFLiberty@

mefa.com.

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Numerous questions arose about the manner in which Thaddeus Cho went on a murder rampage, killing 21 people and himself on the campus of Virginia Tech. Some speculated the cause to be depression and loneliness. Perhaps they were right, but there is a greater battle – a spiritual battle – going on within the body and soul.

The war between good and evil that our culture faces is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). And have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater promised the victory. “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome the devil, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

There are real battles going on between spiritual forces as described in Ephesians 5:12, which says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the authorities, against the powers, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

A battle was being fought inside of Cho. In our culture, we give this spiritual war different names, such as depression in Cho’s case. However, the real battle is not against flesh and blood.

Dr. Ergun Caner briefly touched on the subject of spiritual warfare last Wednesday night during his sermon about testing the spirits. His sermon was based on 1 John 4:1, which says, “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God. For many false prophets are going around today. Their spirits are demons, so test the spirits to see whether they are of God.”

C.S. Lewis described this battle in his book The Screwtape Letters. The book is a fictional compilation of letters between the devil and his nephew Wormwood, a demon trying to cause a man to give in to temptation. Life is a spiritual battle, and we must be prepared to fight. According to Caner, Satan and his demons cannot possess a believer because a Christian is inhabited by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore both evil and good cannot dwell inside of the believer. According to Caner, Satan and his demons cannot possess a believer because a Christian is inhabited by the Holy Spirit. Satan is not omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent. Satan is not, but he uses his demons to accomplish the work he himself is unable to complete alone. According to Caner, Satan and his demons cannot possess a believer because a Christian is inhabited by the Holy Spirit. Therefore both evil and good cannot dwell inside of the believer.

Job, described as “a blameless and upright man who feared and served God” (Job 1:1), was tempted by Satan himself. Though he did not understand why he was being attacked, he chose to worship God instead of cursing God, Job 1:20, which says, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”

The devil had advised Wormwood not to engage in argument but rather fix his attention on “the stream of immediate sense experiences.” C.S. Lewis describes the effectiveness of this strategy as the patient gives in to his own desires of the flesh, making it easier for Satan’s demons to attack. We must be aware of demonic schemes and maintain control of our thoughts and desires at all times.

Satan and his demons not only attack us during our weakest moments, but also when we are strongest. Job, described as “a blameless and upright man who feared and served God” (Job 1:1), was tempted by Satan himself. Though he did not understand why he was being attacked, he chose to worship God instead of cursing God, Job 1:20, which says, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”

We are also instructed to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:18). Satan’s attacks are real, but Christ has equipped us for the battle, giving us power over the enemy. We are told in James 4:7 that when we resist the devil, he will flee from us.

We have the power because of the source of the power lies in us. Christianity is an inhabited faith – Christ lives in us. This is a battle we will never have to fight alone, and we have already been promised victory.

Contact Kari Mitchell at kmitchell2@liberty.edu.

This will be the Queen’s first official visit to the United States in 16 years.

The Queen of England is visiting Virginia this week in honor of Jamestown’s 400th anniversary, according to ABC News. During her stay the Queen will be paying her respects to the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings.

The London-based Somalian government has been fighting back against attacks by pockets of radical members of the Islamic Courts group. The death toll since the beginning of 2007 is 2,000, with most of the deaths believed to be innocent civilians caught in the crossfire.

C.S. Lewis illustrates this battle in “The Screwtape Letters.” The book is a fictional compilation of letters between the devil and his nephew Wormwood, a demon trying to cause a man to give in to temptation. Life is a spiritual battle, and we must be prepared to fight. According to Caner, Satan and his demons cannot possess a believer because a Christian is inhabited by the Holy Spirit.

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Reflections from years past

The sun was crafted to guide our eyes by day, and the moon our eyes by night, but the stars seem to have guided man’s heart since the first clear night sky was drawn in the heavens. Men looked to the sky for the sign of our coming Savior, and sailors have spent long nights on the open sea with nothing but the stars to guide their way, and generations of mankind, men have searched the sky, wondering at the possibilities of other planets like our own.

There is something inspiring about those minute blazing lights against the darkness that can stir one’s mind and move one’s spirit.

As a child I spent my summers in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, and I’ve never been closer to the stars before or since. Like many children, I attended a summer camp for one week out of every year, and when I was old enough I volunteered at the same camp so I could stay for two, but it was never long enough.

The fact that every week felt like a separate lifetime didn’t make me long for home but made me fear the death of that life. I recall each evening when I put out the campfire, watching the last flames sputter and die but not mourning the darkness because of the starlight that took the flame’s place.

When you are in an environment like that, away from outside influence, away from family, and away from all the aspects of your life with which you have surrounded yourself either by circumstance or choice, you develop relationships at an accelerated rate. Reflecting on it, I find it hard to believe that I miss some of the people from that place more than I miss family who have passed away.

Some people say that tainting is a part of who we are — that the way a person responds to his surroundings is the picture of his character. I don’t believe that.

There is something to be said for a person’s response showing his inner workings, or that a trial is the true test of character. I might not be able to defeat the argument that anyone can seem a wonderful person outside of the influences in their sphere of living.

That isn’t the point. The point is that in that world, the world where you have the time to stop and listen, the world where you build your second lifetime, you can know that peace is at least within you. That is a comforting thought to me.

As a married college student, it is often hard to balance the demands of everyday life. Simple finding time to attend classes, to finish assignments, to work enough to pay the bills, and keep up with things at home taxes my will every week, if not every day.

I have not had the luxury of that peace.

I have not had the pleasure of a relationship untainted by the restrictions of time or stress. I think that is why I miss the people of that summer life so much.

I only really mean to ask one thing so simple about our worlds that never stop, with our cities so proud of never sleeping. I can’t see the stars from where I live — can you?

Will Mayer
swmayer@liberty.edu

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Softball tied for first in BSC as Lowe no-hits Coastal Carolina

By Jake Petersen
SPORTS REPORTER

The Liberty University Lady Flames' softball team tied for first in the Big South Conference as Lowe no-hit the visiting Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina during Friday's 4-0 victory. Lowe had 13 strikeouts and allowed only three hits in the complete game for the Flames' second no-hitter of the season, tossing her second career no-hitter to move from second to first in the conference.

Lowe no-hits Coastal Carolina back on a three-game set against the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, who sit just one run on the way to his three-run homer to the Flames with three runners on base. Lowe plated another four runs in the bottom of the fifth to put the game out of reach.

Junior P.K. Keller's first home run of the season was responsible for three of the five runs in the fifth. The four-run fifth increased the Flames lead to 13-3. Each team sent five pitchers to the mound during the game.

Sophomore Andrew Williams pitched three innings and gave up just two runs on his way to his third victory of the season. Junior Garrett Young went 2-0 for the Flames. The 20 hits for the Flames was the first time since their 13-0 shutout earlier this year against the Richmond Spiders that the Flames reached the 20-hit mark. Keller added a two-run double to his three-run homer over the weekend to set the Liberty record for home runs in a single season with 25.

The Flames fed a much stronger opponent over the weekend in the 20th ranked Coastal Carolina Chanticleers.

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Junior P.K. Keller's first home run of the season was responsible for three of the five runs in the fifth. The four-run fifth increased the Flames lead to 13-3. Each team sent five pitchers to the mound during the game.

Sophomore Andrew Williams pitched three innings and gave up just two runs on his way to his third victory of the season. Junior Garrett Young went 2-0 for the Flames. The 20 hits for the Flames was the first time since their 13-0 shutout earlier this year against the Richmond Spiders that the Flames reached the 20-hit mark. Keller added a two-run double to his three-run homer over the weekend to set the Liberty record for home runs in a single season with 25.

The Flames fed a much stronger opponent over the weekend in the 20th ranked Coastal Carolina Chanticleers.

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SOFTBALL: Lady Flames prep for visiting Hokies

Continued from page B1

"It was tHen that Williams stepped up to the plate again, hitting a single down the right field line. The perfect bunt by Jefferson, which she laid down just a perfect bunt in between the Panthers and the Lady Flames, was just trying to put the ball in play," said Hensley. "She also laid down a perfect bunt, setting the stage for Beth Hensley's heroics.

As the season dwindles to a close, Wetmore feels his team is right where it needs to be. "It was a perfectly executed bunt and Beth came through with a hit. We love hitting baseball and softball," said Wetmore. "As the season draws to a close, Wetmore feels his team is right where it needs to be.

"There are several surprises during Saturday's draft that I feel will have immediate impact. Either way, Landry will get more than 1,000 yards. Any man, as he missed out on several teams and millions or dollars by dropping that for him is the draft."
His nickname was Big Daddy, partly because of his home run power and partly because of his prodigious girth.

"I will never forget the day I almost fell down into the bleachers."

"I hope he dreams of the day, like I did, that he will be one of those giants."

"I hope I am wrong."

"But I think there is something to be said for holding on to some piece of that boyhood wonder instead of growing calloused by the tendrils of adulthood."

"I hope he learns from a young age that people, even heroes, do not make mistakes."

"I hope he comes to the realization that for many players, sports is not about passion—it's about business."

"Perhaps it is not all bad."

"I also hope that the day never comes when I have to break my little boy's heart and tell him that his hero cheated."

"I want to be there to tell him that I saw him with open arms of forgiveness and fat paychecks."

Because there were no parents there to tell us we could not have more nachos or hot dogs.

"I hope he never comes to the sad realization that for many players, sports is not about passion—it's about business."

"Perhaps it is not all bad."

"Maybe it is better for him if he learns from a young age that people, even heroes, make mistakes."

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"The steroid scandal continues to spread like wildfire across the panorama of sports."

"Players caught red-handed ran away from the accusations like jackrabbits fleeing before a prairie fire only to be welcomed back by many with open arms of forgiveness and fat paychecks."

"Sports are my passion, my first love."

"I am afraid that no matter what I do, the day will come when my son will take that long fall down the beanstalk with his hero."

"I hope I am wrong."

"Contact Mitchell Malcheff at mjmalcheff@liberty.edu."

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Going abroad: An inside perspective on an ‘ivory tower’ from the outside

I have a habit of involving myself in local and international conversations on a regular basis. These typically include lots of coffee and a few individuals with endless amounts of time to spare.

Going abroad:

I have only one question concerning these topics. Ask the bride of Christ or not? If the answer is yes, then we have something to change. In Matthew 22:21, Jesus stated, “You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet” (ESV).

The American government cannot fix the many problems of the world — judging and evaluating the situation cannot fix the many problems. We state, “If he had just done (Blank), things would be better.”

Or worse, we blame the opposing political party for the problems.

I have lived in Amman, Jordan for the past eight months, studying Arabic and thinking up my own ideas. I know someone who has been brutally killed by the war in Iraq. Jordan is now home to nearly one trillion Iraqi refugees. They live here with no rights to education, health care or legal jobs.

The overwhelming majority of Iraqis want Iraq with their families intact. They have faces, names, brothers and sisters. They have family members, people that we care about. It is an opportunity to put our ivory tower mentality into perspective. What we witnessed at Virginia Tech is a type of situation that many parts of the world deal with on a daily basis.

I have grown to understand the fragility of life. On the same day as the Virginia Tech killings, six people lost their lives in Baghdad to suicide bombings based on tribal conflicts that have existed for centuries.

I say this not to devalue the great tragedy in our neighbors in Blacksburg. Indeed, my prayers and heart go out to those families and communities. However, this is an opportunity to put our ivory tower mentality into perspective. What we witnessed at Virginia Tech is a type of situation that many parts of the world deal with on a daily basis.

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Long-standing American tradition brought old ideas of fun and entertainment for people of all ages when it set up its famous Big Top in the LaHaye Ice Center parking lot last week.

Featuring unimpossible feats and tricks too puerile for any one adult in the audience to perform, the Cole Bros Circus entertained its audiences on April 23 and 24.

"It’s great. Every kid needs to go in the circus," said Lynchburg resident Bryan Scott, who attended with his wife and granddaughters.

"It was an event for everyone to come together and enjoy, breaking away from their rigorous daily activities," said Dr. Lisa Percer, whose daughter, a Lynchburg resident, brought the family to the circus.

"With smiles and joy in their faces, families and kids watched in amazement of the human cannonball," said Stephanie Rafacz, the photographer for this article.

"The performers in the aerial acts were truly amazing," said Scott concerning the animal performances, which included a large caged lion and a monkey.

Although the motorists were said to have about forty years experience, the show continued for more than two hours with a 15-minute intermission.

The first performance consisted of two motorists driving in a ball-shaped cage, both in circles and upside down. As the cage split in half, pulling apart, the motorists continued their performance.

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