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Proposed
budget

Lynchburg City Manager Kimball Payne announced the City of Lynchburg's proposed budget for 2014 on March 12. The budget includes funding for many different areas in the city, according to Payne's proposal.

"We had a number of difficult budgets over the last four years, especially January of 2009," Payne said. "We've made a number of adjustments, such as cutting spending and raising tax increases to the new budget and including a pay freeze for city employees.

According to Payne, the proposed budget includes moves for the general, capital, airport, water, sewer and storm water funds, among others. Without the beginning funds and transfers between them, the total amount is $318.1 million.

The 2014 budget is different than previous budgets. The 2013 budget proposed totaled $294.6 million, and the 2012 budget amounted to $306.6 million.

The obvious increase between the budget proposals is due to more spending on capital projects, fire expenditures and the general fund.

According to Payne, the main goal for the new budget proposal was to maintain a fund of reserves, public safety and fire protection, employee salaries as well as to improve parks and the city in general.

This budget mildly affects teachers, school district employees, Payne said.

"I don't think we have significantly cut any employees." The proposed budget supports an across-the-board pay raise for city and school employees for the first time since 2008.

"Along with a rise in challenging budgets, it may be reassuring to ask how we have arrived at this place," Payne said. "We are in the position by hope and prudence. The last four years have been challenging for adherence to the city's budget, by stricter, and by tough decisions such as cutting positions and raising taxes. In the proposal meeting, the Lynchburg City Council said that they would work to ensure an environment in which the residents of Lynchburg are free to pursue their dreams, hopes and aspirations and commitments to meet the city's needs.

If approved, Payne's proposal will take effect July 1, 2013 and run through June 30, 2014.

The city council will vote on the proposed budget several weeks from now, following numerous public meetings and discussions.

CREEMORE is a news reporter.

Teddy bears bring smiles to hospitalized kids

Those who have seen playgrounds Uprising the DelMar into thin past week can ask any idea about a new Library University. Darcy. Librarians' chapter of the Alpha Lambda Delta, Honor Society included them available for free, faculty and staff to donate teddy bears and other stuffed animals for hospitalized children.

Aldi Head President Rebecca Smith and other chapter officers delivered the teddy bears to the Center's Health Pediatric Center at Lynchburg General Hospital Thursday, March 7.

This year's annual Teddy Bear Drive moved students and faculty to donate more than 150 stuffed teddy bears, giraffes and monkeys. According to Aldi, particularly with the economic situation, the amount of teddy bears—although expensive—was much higher than the usual amount collected.

Gudzuk said that this was the first time in several years that the Library's pediatric unit community.

"I think it is awesome," Smith said.

Smith is in her second year at Liberty and will finish her December. She said that it is the first year she has participated in the Teddy Bear Drive.

Gudzuk, Smith and Aldi Administrations' Interim Dean Gayton led the gifts and delivered them to Patricia Edwards, a nurse who accepted the bags of teddy bears to the children's hospital Pediatric Center.

CREEKMORE is a news reporter.

Teddy bears bring smiles to hospitalized kids

CREEKMORE is a news reporter.

Teddy bears bring smiles to hospitalized kids

CREEKMORE is a news reporter.
Health master's offered
New program equips students to impact

Mark Tall
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The aim for Liberty University's new master's program is to train students to impact the world through their future careers, according to Richard Laney, the director of the program in public health.

Laney said the new degree prepares students for work in preventing disease, not only treating it.

"We see ... how we could utilize this degree to reach out to nations in need and use it as a platform to spread the Gospel," Laney said.

The new program began with 22 students taking an online environment course in fall 2011, according to Laney, but it has grown to 170 online students and 33 resident students. Students are taught through two residential experiences as well as several residential professors.

Laney also said that he looks forward to graduating the first class of the new program. By 2018, new students will receive their master's degree in public health from Liberty. According to Laney, he is excited to see the ways his students impact the community.

"We're embracing public health, and we're going full force," Laney said. "We're doing it so others can experience and see Jesus. That's the whole reason we're doing this."

In order to graduate, each student must complete a practicum, and all public health students meet this requirement through various means around the world.

"It's basically putting everything they have learned into practice," Laney said.

According to him, nine modern societies are currently completing this degree in Virginia as well as in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and even overseas.

Laney has done a variety of public health work that he hopes to implement into the program. He recently took a trip to Trinidad, where he corresponded with physicians from Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana and Haiti.

Laney also is developing a practicum in Guyana and may need students to the country to conduct problems of malnutrition in the nation.

"If we hope to work with growing people in Trinidad, where we need to do public health work ... work with the same kind of real problems, real health issues, and, through that, see the kind of integral public health platform to be able to share personally, with people in high positions in other governments, about their health issues," Laney said.

According to Lane, the idea for the master's of public health program originated when Dr. Jerry Falwell, Sr. invited students to be in Liberty in 1985. Laney told students he would give them Falwell mentioned the idea of one day having a program in public health.

"He was such a visionary," Laney said. "He talked about the world, talked about that's going up on the mountains, and I think ... he knew a school of public health coming up, and we are in the forefront of that."

"I think God's saying, 'Well done.'" TAIT is a news reporter.

CELEBRATION - Students participate in the ceremonial service that recognizes the sacrifice of Christ.

Students take in commemmoration

Cecilia Hines
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Liberty University students celebrated the 95th Anniversary of World War I by taking part in commemorations held at Campus Church service on March 20.

Worship Pastor Justin Kinzard and the Campus Peace Band led thousands of students in worship throughout the day.

Afterwards, Johnnie Moulton taught from the Book of Mark and discussed the significance of the Last Supper and lesser things, so that we have the space to look inside our hearts again and remember how we've been loved and changed by Jesus.

"Do you why the God gave us ... the communion? So we will remember the sacrifice of Christ," Moulton said.

"Communion allows us to remember our lives in light of the cross. It's a time of unity for the body of Christ and a time to remember that Jesus has freed us of sin and given us a new and better life. Communion proves the promise, the pact, the lesser thing, so that we have the space to look inside our hearts again and remember how we've been loved and changed by Jesus," Moulton said.

Clips from the History Channel's mini-series "The Bible," including in-air scenes were shown after Moulton spoke to help illustrate points in his sermon.

"Showing the clips from 'The Bible' mini-series was a great visual enrichment of the communion ceremony," Liberty graduate student Gabby Taliban said.

According to Liberty junior Devon Mello, this is the third year he has attended communion at the university.

"I think that communion is one of the most important parts of our relationship with God," Mello said. "At home, I don't usually go to church because we work, so this is one of the only times of the year I get to take communion, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to do so."

Kinzard also stressed the importance of communion in a Christian's life.

"We are commanded as a body to continue ... as a Christian university, Campus Church is where we come together as a body and a community of believers. Christ is what we center our lives around, and if we don't take the time to remember, then what are we doing?" Kinzard said.

According to Kinzard, members of student leadership and students working Christian service hour helped set up the cross-shaped table that held communion. Other students were involved in the service as ushers or technical production helpers.

Moultin ended his sermon by urging students to examine themselves before taking communion and to honor Jesus by remembering his broken body and sacrifice.

HINES is a news reporter.

In memory of the Civil War

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Specimens took a step back in time Thursday, March 21 as they listened to Civil War songs performed by the 95th Regimental String Band of Liberty University.

At 7 p.m. rolled along a 52-song program packed with grandparent, parents and immature coming to a glimpse of the history.

According to the website, the 95th Regimental String Band specializes in music from the 1860s and the Civil War era. The group consists of three performers who have been working together for 30 years.

Using each song, the three performers entertain the crowd with poems, jokes and stories from the Civil War era, often retelling authentic laughter and auspices.

According to the band, the 95th principal started playing together as a hobby beginning with songs sung around the campfires of Civil War in reenactment. It has been a slow start, with songs mostly confined to make libraries, but one thing it needs.

"We've always tried to sound like what we think our music, and the soldiers did when they sang the songs," Moolten said.

Some of the songs were a hit in the battle of Gettysburg, where the band played during the Civil War era. "It's our music, but your music, and it's always been," Moolten said.

BARTLETT is a news reporter.

MUSIQL - The 95th Regimental String Band performs in Delco Hall.

MUSIQUL - The band played, included around "Beehive Blue Flag" and "Take Care of the Plantation" — where the plain Jimmy cracked came from and also a "Dish," which got most of their fanatics for just dimly and clipped along. As part of the evening's entertainment, the band incorporated the story of the Civil War era soldiers, according to Moolten.

"We always tried to sound like the sound the soldiers did when they sang the songs," Moolten said.

KINZARD is the music director for Liberty University's Liberty University's Messiah Choral Society.

The Champion encourages community members to submit letters to the editor. Letters are subject to editing, length, and must contain no libelous or slanderous material. Any submission that appears on the opinion of the editorial staff, not the opinion of the author, will be labeled as such.

"It's brightening up their day." HOOSIER is a news reporter.

Letter to the Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Let's Go to the Beach

Dear Editor,

I love to take my dog, Max, to the beach. It is such a beautiful place and it is great to be with other dog owners.

My dog is a labrador and he loves to run around and play in the water. We usually go to a local beach and we always have a great time.

However, this year I noticed something strange. There were a lot of dead fish on the beach. I wondered if this was related to the weather.

Do you have any ideas on what could be causing this? Is there anything I can do to help?

Sincerely,

[Name]

Address:

City, State, Zip

The Champion welcomes letters from the public and all的观点。
Judah Smith ignites passion among crowd

Melanie Oelrich
moelech@liberty.edu

"Be who you really are!" Three key words rang through the Liberty University Vines Grace Wednesday, March 20, as Pastor Judah Smith addressed a full crowd about what it means to have faith and to appreciate life as a gift.

Smith, the lead pastor of The City Church in Smith, Wash., described a revelation he had with his son, who told him that he is not ready to fulfill his duties as a "Smith!"

"You are seen by birth — you just become a Smith," he said in response to his son. "It was a gift — accept it, enjoy it, but please do not offer it up by trying to hurt the name. Be who you really are!"

Smith's newest book, "Jesus Is __," is described in advance thanks to a shout-out from Justin Bieber, who Smith has known personally for about three years, according to Christian Post.

"So proud of my pastor," Bieber wrote on Instagram, including a picture of Smith's book. "Judah is the best speaker of our generation. Read this book — you won't regret it."

In his new book, Smith considers Jesus to be the foundation of defining who Jesus is. "Jesus is grace and truth," Smith said in an interview with the Christian Post. "Grace is always first in the biblical order, and obviously I'm one of those guys that believe that even the order of the wording in Scripture is completely inspired and divine. I think Jesus is grace, truth and love. Obviously, there's so much in there to unpack, but grace it's always first."

During the Convocation service, Smith joked with the crowd, saying that he needed prayer, because he was one of only five Christian living in Seattle.

"The way I see it, Seattle is a very black-and-white culture, so why not be a missionary in your own backyard? It's a place that is in need, too," Smith said. "Being a missionary means you need a heart that's pure; you need a heart that's pure and doesn't mean you need a band or a pulpit backing you up — just who Jesus calls you to and do what he's gifted you to do!"

Smith also said that the purpose of his new book is to spread the name of Jesus to those who do not know him.

"As a community in Seattle, we want to make Jesus a big deal," Smith said. "(The Jesus Is __) theme based on Luke 15) started out as a 3-Minute series at church, and then it evolved into billboards, bumper stickers and magazines. We started to see people's lives change, and we put it in the local paper so that people knew what was happening in our community." According to Smith, human beings cannot find their worth in the world they live in, but in the image they were created as.

"God loves you," Smith said. "He doesn't need you, but he wants you and he loves you. Not the only thing that improves God is love, and that's why it's impossible to please God without faith. All of us who trust Jesus are planning to God."

OELRICH is the news editor.

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**Join the local CROP Hunger Walk to Walk Details**

**DATE:**
Sunday, April 14, 2013

**LOCATION:**
St. John's Episcopal Church off Rivermont Ave

**REGISTRATION:**
1:00 p.m. | Walk starts at 2:00 p.m.

The Walk will go from the church down Bedford to the en and back up Rivermont and then by Randolph Light.

There will be rocking chairs provided for people to Rock the Walk who cannot walk.

To sign up online or join our team, visit the link below!

www.crophungerwalk.org/lynchburgva
Sodexo at Liberty
March madness is a slam dunk

Andrew Woodfolk
abwood@library.berkley.edu

I am a man of tradition. Every year around March, my daily routine is always the same. To some, the term “Selection Sunday,” the “Big Dance,” and “Bracketology” sound like nonsense. But to me, all of that makes sense. To those confused to know, one refers to the NCAA men’s basketball tournament.

For sports fans, it is hard to find a spectator more investing and rewarding than the 68-team, single-elimination model that the collegiate basketball’s playoff system offers. We lose the fact that you cannot have an “off” game. For your team to win, all the games are crucial. No matter how unimportant, no matter how insignificant, no matter how mind-numbingly uninteresting, they decide your fate. All the games have their own flair. By the time you make it past the first round of this year, that does not stop the “Fans chested from breathing” about that one when we in fact get a crack at shining a giant.

The sports send us to do what we do on and off about March Madness is the best playoff system in American sports. That is One Shining Moment,” the only year emotionally-charged tournament at the center of every tournament. There is no crease to the others, the pregame handshake and the hitting out of the brackets. Yes, those(formatting endless brackets. Every year, we like to fill them out with the highest of expectations, until we realize that we cramp up just a familiar climb that the tournament has begun. Sure, there are more than nine million — that is a nine with 18 zeros behind it, for those who are curious — possibilities for a bracket to turn out, but that does not stop us from enjoying a little easy aard about our prognostication process.

March Madness has its advantages like other playoff systems. Major League Baseball has the bizarre home-field advantage rule, which means that the NLA lets in too many teams. Personally, I have never had a college football fan who would say the BCS is the pinnacle of human achievement. And although the NFL is the closest to matching the magic of March, it still seems too easy for a fan to get on a hot streak near the end of the season and steal the trophy. March Madness is the only tournament that generates real, cultural, and even sports fans sit down, look at a piece of paper with team names across a jagged group of lines and spend the next 10 minutes or so filling it out.

So, as you sit back for the next five weeks until the tournament comes to a close with your brackets rising right beside you, do not get discouraged if your team loses or your bracket gets destroyed. Next year, another eight of us will be up almost absurdly sucked back into the system, as though many games you have predicted to fill out this year.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is true March Madness.

WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.

Does electing a new pope give us hope?

Gabriella Fuller
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The world was shocked to learn that Pope Benedict XVI publicly an¬ounced his resignation as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

According to the Catholic Education Resource Center, the first pope was the first pope to resign in 240 years, and the first to do so on his own volition, in 2013.

The unexpected nature of the pope's resignation, rapidly gained attention for Pope Benedict's choice of the newly-elected Pope Francis as the successor of the global leadership.

According to the papal conclave, the election of Pope Francis has more than one million people interested in Rome for the inauguration of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, former cardinal and archbishop of Buenos Aires. Among those in the crowds at St. Peter's Square were religious leaders, royalty and advocates representing more than 130 countries.

The significance of a new pope, however, has far more implications than merely a day of especially celebratory significance at the Vatican. It is far more than a new name for the world and a change in the face of the Catholic Church. It is a symbol that the world is changing. It is a signal to the world that the Catholic Church is alive.

The position of the pope may seem remote, but is more than a traditional custom, the pope is recognized as the official voice of the Roman Catholic Church. His decisions and actions can influence the actions of all Roman Catholic leaders and serve as examples for many, both inside and outside the Church.

According to Ken Chilcott, chair of the Department of Theological Studies at our school, pope's choice at the direction of Rome, and his position matters accordingly.

"The fact that 1.2 billion people believe the pope’s words is more than just the choices and teachings of the pope, his position is an obligation to be great concern," Greaver said.

My hope was one among them. After following the pontiffs in this event, I could not help but wonder why we do not rush out light on only a few factors.

Turning off the power in the church is not like that I planned for the night. In fact, my friends and I had more fun stringing together and gianting great moments, singing and remaining with the others on an empty parade.

While it is not plain for everyone, happiness or joy for their lights each night, a should-be considered event more than any day a year, and should be done without consistent prompting from the Vatican.

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WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.
What immediately comes to mind when the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is mentioned? Hostility, conflict in the security lines, and a roll of the eyes at the strict policies are some characteristics associated with a trip through the airport's security system. TSA has become quite the household name, and not in a good way.

In a move to conform to the International Civil Aviation Organization's laws, Director of TSA John Pistole allowed knives to accompany passengers on the airplane. Needless to say, it has been met with heated criticism.

In a recent news conference held outside the Capitol, George Taylor, president for the federal air marshals service within the Federal Law Enforcement Office Association, spoke out against the new rule, saying that terrorists could get past the reinforced cockpit door with tools similar to those wielded by hijackers.

"It's just absolutely insane," Taylor said to members of the House of Representatives. "I don't put my faith in fed rein­forced doors. If it's made by man, it can be broken by man."

Taylor is not the only one voicing his concerns. Flight attendants have been freaked concerning the TSA's hold, yet surprising, move. Along with Taylor and Bag Ed Markey, advocates from several flight attendant unions gathered at the news conference to denounce Pistole's decision.

Pistole has been compassed as well. Liberty University alumni and airplane pilot Josh Stadtfeld was critical of the alterations to the list of banned items.

"Since Sept. 2001, TSA started banning all kinds of things like this, so it raises the question, 'Why do we really need that?'" airplane pilot and Liberty University alumnus Josh Stadtfeld said. "We've been fine without it for 12 years, so why do they need to start bring­ing stuff like that back?"

Stadtfeld flies on Embraer 145, a jet the world's largest regional airliner, ExpressJet. Sailing 30 people, only one flight attendant is needed for the cabin. Stadtfeld expressed his understanding of the flight attendants' disappointment.

"She saw a definite safety threat. I sided with her opinion — it's stupid," Stadtfeld said. "Why do they need to have that?"

Granted, TSA has put regulations on the dimensions of the knives allowed. The official proportions measure 2.5 inches long and half an inch in width.

In my opinion, it is an attempt to move on. It is an effort to bring back the leisure that we enjoyed before the Twin Towers fell. I see a nation that is slowly getting back on its feet and feeling less paranoid when they hear a plane flying overhead.

I cannot imagine the time it takes for TSA screening officials to whip out their rulers only examining glass in hand and compare it to the blade's fit within the 2.5-inch parameter. For those with 2.5 inch blades — sorry, nothing personal. It just does not quite make the cut.

Stadtfeld also pointed out that other belongings TSA once banned — such as pool cues, golf clubs, hockey sticks and other sporting equipment — are now being given the green light.

Sure a level of standard is lowered, people inevitably wonder how far it will go. Quentin Forrester, a writer for Mark­etWatch, is not convinced that these recent changes are the only ones that will be made in the next few years. Forrester believes a discussion about what liquids should be allowed on planes as on the subject.

"While passengers can now again carry small blades on flights, bringing aboard more than 3 ounces of liquid is still a no­ no. Experts say that you may soon change," Forrester said. "So what's next? The TSA is rethinking the sizes of bott­les for beverages, shampoo, gel and lotions will likely be next for testing."

Knives will have a time, time being allowed down an airliner, whether a regional jet or a Boeing 747. However, they could certainly aid in the process. Box cutters and some blades were used by terrorists to gain entry into the cockpit during the 9/11 attacks.

Some see it as a step in the right direction, allowing these small knives to be carried on airplanes is a blessing, espe­cially for frequent fliers. Though the threat still have to come off, the pocketknife can pass through the line.

For others, it is a foolish move that not only can put the flight attendants at risk, but can bring back haunting memories of times past.

Whether it is reckless or rational, the move is an illusion that this is a nation trying to move on and recover with the assurance we enjoyed before tragedy altered our lives. It is a step in a long ladder leading to a firmer footing.
Blackboard president on global sales speaks

Sophia Flash
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Research contributed by Kerin Smith
k Smithsonian

Siegfried Behrens, the president of global sales at Blackboard, answered questions presented by students and staff at Liberty University's School of Business Communication March 18.

The conversation held at the lower level of Williams Student Center was moderated by the information technology department and the School's Engineering.

Behrens spoke about the experiences that shaped his career, made him who he is, and helped him to grow in his role.

Despite his current success in the business realm, Behrens said that he struggled many failures with his ever-changing career choices. At one point or another, Behrens pursued careers in aviation, recruiting, international business, and politics before finding his niche in business.

"The hardest challenge for me was constantly picking myself back up and not giving up the struggle," Behrens said. However, Behrens said that failure is not exactly a bad thing.

"If you are going to fail if you haven't failed," Behrens said. "You want to keep learning.

"You are going to learn from your failures." Behrens said that he started working for Microsoft Corporation at the age of 25. After working his way up through the hierarchy, Microsoft asked him to be the leader of education. When he had backed up his education for six months, he was in the field for flight.

According to Behrens, he took the job at Blackboard because he wanted to be a part of leadership in education technology.

"At Blackboard, I was looking at students' needs in exactly the most important mission for us," Behrens said. According to the company website, Blackboard was founded in 1997 and has since accumulated more than 100 partnerships and has 21 locations with eight global data centers.

"Blackboard has been a very accomplished education technology company, but we are never getting satisfied," Behrens said.

While Blackboard currently has bought 50 education, corporate and government clients worldwide, according to its website, Behrens said that it is in wish to keep the good reputation of Blackboard significantly in the future.

"I would like Blackboard to be more prominent in the mainstream opinion of companies that matter," Behrens said. "Our CEO always talks about proud, great and important companies. An excellent company is a company that is delivering the nation or the world's education in the future. Being an important company is the top of the list for us." Behrens said.

Behrens spoke about how business, such as his own, become successful. "What makes a great company great is a company that believes in a higher purpose and serves a higher purpose than its own personal self-interest," Behrens said.

For a company to believe in and serve a higher purpose, Behrens stated that it has to have a clear and sincere mission statement that people want to follow.

"Companies fail when they focus on their profits and lose sight of the long-term goals," Behrens said.

According to Jean of the School of Business, "Blackboard, this idea is to live with what Liberty teaches. ""In moving somebody from the outside that says the same thing, it tends to sink in and you need to respect it more because of the person ... it's their position in the business world," Behrens said.

Students took away many positive lessons from Behrens. behrens Green, a computer communications major, described the importance of learning from experiences.

"It really appreciates the values of the company he works for, but that was a big deal for me," Green said. "The company I work for in the future should also reflect my values, too."

Behrens left students with words of encouragement that he took from his parents as a child. "If you believe in yourself, you can do anything, you want to be in the life," he said. "You are facing on a goal that has an importance to you, then you will be successful and you will be fulfilled."
LUO adds certificate programs

New courses can be taken in areas of interest or to add specialized skills to a completed degree

Carlla Hines
Liberty University Online

Liberty University Online began classes for its new certificate programs March 14. These programs offer undergraduate certificates ranging from business to criminal justice as well as graduate certificates in various subjects from applied communication studies to executive leadership, according to the Liberty University Online website.

Executive Director of Admissions for Liberty University Online Steve Person said that the certificate programs were just launched this spring and that there has been a great response so far. More than 100 people have enrolled in the 30 programs that were open for the spring, as well as in the few that are opening for the summer and fall.

According to Person, the certificate programs are open to everyone regardless of college degree, as long as they have a high school graduate or have a general education diploma. The programs also allow students to transfer in credit to finish a full degree program if they desire.

"For a few years, the university has looked into developing certificate programs that would serve students that may not want to pursue a full degree, or maybe they've already earned a degree and are looking to add on an area of specialization that would help advance their current employment," Person said.

These certificates are degree that students may already have or give an edge to those already in the workforce, according to Person. People are drawn to these programs because 9-15 hours is much more manageable and provides for a quicker completion than a traditional degree.

"For instance, if someone had an undergraduate degree but was now in a position of leadership or management in their company, they may want to go back to school and not attempt a whole degree related to management, but take our graduate certificate courses that total 9 hours," Person said. "The certificates try to fill the gap for students trying to gain employment or add on to a degree.

In some cases, a specific certificate can help someone get a job, even if they do not have a full degree.

"Thinking about what we do here at Liberty, if someone came to us and had specific training through a certificate program, we would consider hiring them, even though they do not have a full degree," Person said.

Person also said that the most popular programs so far are biblical studies and theology, but leadership and accounting have also seen some larger enrollment numbers.

"Liberty is very interested in the degrees they offer. We want to make sure we are equipping students to get into the position that they want, and the jobs that they are seeking," Person said. "We rely on a few outside agencies to help guide us in this process. One is the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. They publish findings of what they think will be areas of high employment in the years to come. We keep an eye on that reporting to make sure our new degrees match up with what the marketplace is hiring for." Last year, Liberty Online had more than 50,000 students enrolled, and administration fully expects that these certificate programs will help that number grow.

"The great thing about online enrollment is the expansion of the mission of Liberty. We want to serve men and women with the values, knowledge and skills to impact their world," Person said. "This program has helped to reach so many people and help spread our mission.

HINES is a news reporter.
Renowned broadcaster visits
James Brown, host of THE NFL Today on CBS, spoke in Convocation Monday, March 25

Andrew Woolfolk
alsohild@liberty.edu

Three-time Emmy win-
sor and renowned sports
broadcaster James Brown added to a
story about the keys to success in the
corporate world during Convocation service
Monday, March 25.
Brown stressed that mastering the funda-
mentals of life was a lesson that
taught him the man he is.
A former basketball
standout at Harvard Uni-
versity, Brown went from
calling short of his child-
hood dream of playing professional
basketball to working at the print-
ing company Xerox before
becoming the sports
caster that the coun-
try has come to know and
love.
During his time at Xer-
ox, a company executive
gave a speech that Brown
said had a huge impact on
his outlook. The speech,
titled "The Objective and Subjec-
tive Criteria for Success in Corpora-
tion America," inspired
Brown to create his own list of fundamentals,
each of which he put
into his own spin on.
"I find seven funda-
mentals to be scriptural founda-
tions he used and I hope to un-
derstand that ultimately,
success in life didn't neces-
sarily have to go to the
top in order to get to the
happy place," Brown said.
Brown's list of funda-
mentals ranged from
dressing like a professional

WORKS FOR THE WORLD

Brown's speech was
particularly encouraging
for students reaching the
end of their academic
career. Brown's words
were comforting for those
 LOOKING AHEAD

Brown's words were
comforting for those
looking ahead. "I grew up
watching him on television,
both with FOX and CBS, so
it was a real thrill to get
You're on your way."
Brown said. "We're working
towards and doing the
correct thing by the day.
"God's people can be
the most successful doing
either way," Brown said.
"One is better than
either way."

PROFESSIONAL — CBS
sports broadcaster James Brown addresses students.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Maxwell, University's
press secretary.
Kevin Hall.
The SOS program con-
ducts assessments of certain
public schools and provides
funding based on security
needs. SOS works in
conjunction with state,
local and tribal government
in order to organize the
program.
Warrer's office is opti-
mistic that the bill will pass,
according to Hall.

FYI
Senate Majority Leader
Harry Reid formally
introduced a gun bill Thursday,
March 21, to be debated by the
Senate after a long
recess.
Flames fall in ‘First 4’

Liberty loses to N.C. A&T, 73-72

Kyle Harvey

When the buzzer sounded, Liberty's first NCAA Tournament appearance was over.

The Flames played their first round game against the Aggies in front of a sold out crowd at Mackey Arena in the Big South Conference Championship game on March 18. It was a week-long journey for the Flames as they traveled across the nation, in search of an upset victory.

The Flames were seeded 13th in the Big South Conference, while the Aggies were seeded 4th.

The Flames were led by senior guards Devon Brown and Terika Williams, who combined for a total of 27 points.

The Flames led by 14 points at halftime, but the Aggies came back to take a 39-38 lead.

In the second half, the Flames were able to take a 68-61 lead with less than three minutes to go.

The Aggies were able to comeback and tie the game at 68-68 with less than a minute to go.

The Flames were able to escape with a 73-72 victory, but the game was a tough one for both teams.

The Flames are now 3-1 in NCAA Tournament play, after winning their first three games.

They will now face the winner of the West Virginia vs. Iowa State game in the second round.

Boiling Point

Purdue beats Lady Flames at the boards, ends tourney hopes

Deverick Batty

Since the 71-63 loss to High Point, Jan. 17, the Lady Liberty Flames basketball team went on to win four straight. In their third consecutive NCAA appearance, 18th-ranked, the No. 13 seed Lady Flames fell to the No. 4 seed Purdue Boilermakers, 77-43.

Liberty's last victory in the NCAA tournament was in 2005, when it defeated DePaul, 88-79, leading to the Lady Flames only Sweet 16 appearance.

"We're a very young group of women who are first timers, who had led us this year, and in the presence of all of our training. I'm very proud of their efforts," Head Coach Easy Green said in a post game conference after the game. "I'm very thankful that we get to this level and didn't play very well."

Under the leadership of senior guards Devon Brown and Lakendra Williams, as well as freshmen Tolu Omotola, Beryna Campbell and Tiffia Lambo, Liberty held a record of 10-13 for the past four years.

Agunos Purdue, Liberty was known as one of the best rebounding teams in the nation, averaging 48 rebounds per game.

"If we let Purdue do what we want and be physical, they only get one shot," Jackson said.

In addition to that, the Boilermakers are tough teams do get back on defense, because they're going to transition to the full court defense and try to make plays on the opposite end of the court.

The Boilermakers led 36-27 at halftime, but the Lady Flames pulled within 50-47 in the second half.

The Boilermakers led 67-53 with less than three minutes to go, but the Lady Flames were able to comeback to pull within 74-59.

The Boilermakers held a 77-59 lead with just over a minute left in the game.

The Lady Flames were able to escape with a 77-59 victory, but the game was a tough one for both teams.

The Lady Flames are now 3-1 in NCAA Tournament play, after winning their first three games.

They will now face the winner of the West Virginia vs. Iowa State game in the second round.

Softball sweep

Coach Wetmore: everyone contributed in three-game series

Tom Fosse

The Flames faced Radford in the first game of the three-game series.

The Flames took control early and never looked back, winning 8-0.

In the second game, the Flames dominated from the start, winning 11-0.

In the third game, the Flames also dominated, winning 5-0.

The Flames are now 13-12, 2-1 in Big South play.

They will now face Presbyterian (6-22) in the Big South Conference Championship game on Saturday, March 23.

The Flames have won all five games this season.

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The Flames have won all five games this season.
Men's and women's tennis take tumble

The Flames winning streak ends at six as the Lady Flames suffer a defeat against No. 72 East Carolina.

ON HIS GAME — Junior Shea Thomas has posted a 1-14 record in singles competition this season.

"When you come to . these, as a media person or as a fan, you don't know what these guys' hearts are like." LAYER

BOILING continued from B1

and go on to fast, better you're sort of in scramble mode on defense.

Only averaging 17 rebousts a game, Purdue held the Lady Flames to zero second-chance points and under 40 rebounds.

Center Jasmine Gardner, who averaged 17 rebounds during the season, was missed in the Lady Flames frontcourt due to injury.

"They came out physical," Oromoi said. "They put most of the bundles inside. We came out, and we're only one deep, so there was a lot on us."

After going scoreless for nearly three minutes, the Lady Flames pulled ahead to 20-19, but senior guard Reagan Miller hit a three with 10:15 minutes left in the first half.

"This was probably the best of the game. Miller's three was one of two made for the entire game as the Lady Flames shot 2-11 from beyond the arc," Sullivan said, "I'm pretty proud of the accomplishments we've made, and I'm glad I made it with those girls." Oromoi said.

"We had a good team this year, but we're not a very good Purdue team," Green said. "They played as well as they could and we didn't play as well as we could, but we lost to a very good Purdue team," Green said. "They played up to their potential."

BATTLE is the assist. sports-editor.
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Lady Flames finish 46th among the nations best at the national swim and diving championships

Alanna Gorgas
Sports Editor

CUP continued

...second for the Flames with a distance of 15.2, while his brother Cost Johnson claimed the win in a time jump with a distance of 47.10. On the track, Roderick Spears scored Washington, Tarwell Williams and Leon and Robinson combined to win the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 41.12. Washington and Robinson, along with Keke Gill and Paul Askins, also teamed up for the 4x400-meter relay and finished second in the race in second place, crossing the finish line at 3:57:18.

In addition to their relay win, Spruell and Washington both earned honorable mention all-America honors. Their teammates also earned honors from the women's team. Staff writer Jennifer Nichelson was named a second team All-American in the 100-meter backstroke and 200-yard backstroke.

Senior Britz York added a victory for the women's team in the 200-yard backstroke. York was the first woman to win the event in the history of Liberty. York's time of 1:51.28 won the event and set a new school record.

Lady Liberty's team finished the meet with seven victories, four of which came in the men's competition. The Flames finished 46th in a field of 68 teams from around the world.
"One of the reasons I enjoy and value being a part of PRSSA is because it gives me the opportunity to network with experienced professionals and gain advice for when I enter into life after Liberty." Wilson explained that when he was in college, he studied business economics and accounting. However, after graduation, he realized that he would rather pursue an alternative career choice in public relations.

"Professionals and handson experience are important," Wilson said. "If you can put together in front of an employer that can make you look capable and that you know what you are doing, that is incredibly important for getting a career for a job that will interest you for the rest of your life."

According to Wilson, he eventually took an internship in the sports broadcasting field, which caused him to realize that he wanted to work in that area. When he landed his job with the Hillcats, he had to move from California to Lynchburg. Wilson stressed the need for valuing and emphasizing the importance of networking while in college.

"When you have the chance to attend events where you can meet future employers, you shouldn't let the opportunity for granted," Wilson said.

His primary focus during the presentation was toward communication students wanting to enter the sports industry.

"If you are going into sports, you will have to do more than public relations," Wilson said. "You will have to be current people with physical skills. So their minds get conditioned to think like this, and it becomes second nature."

Members of PRSSA believe that it is very important for communication students to attend these events.

"This is a unique opportunity to hear about the important role of communications in the sports industry. Whether you are into sports or not, challenge yourself to learn about these communications and the different ways it can be used," Bailey Porter, director of communications for PRSSA, said.

For more information about future PRSSA events, visit LibertyPRSSA SKINNER is a feature reporter.

PRSSA’s ‘Catchy Communications’

Lynchburg Hillcats employee Erik Wilson shared his public relations experience with Liberty students Thursday

Melissa Skinner
mskinner@liberty.edu

Communication students were invited to attend a workshop Thursday, March 21 that was hosted by Liberty University’s Public Relations Society of America PRSSA.

During the event, Director of Broadcasting and Media Relations at Lynchburg Hillcats Minor League Baseball Club Erik Wilson spoke to students about his duties as well as how important it is to begin networking as a junior.

"Limiting promotion speakers to our PRSSA events allows students to gain a deeper understanding of the communications field," Kristen Gourley, the president of Liberty’s chapter of PRSSA.

DESIGN continued from B1

design simple because the simplest design can be the best designs.

"The first thing was weeding out all of the first things that came to mind, because everything that hit me right off was stuff I’ve seen, like floating isleos," Stier said. "That typically happens with design. Everything you know comes back first, and you’ve got to weed through that and try to do something a little new.

"Stier said that he did not know what to expect beforehand because he did not know what the competition would be like. Upon arrival, however, Stier also said that he knew he was in a good company with his fellow students.

"I sat down and designed all the time," Stier said. "It’s just how I spent most of my time and most of my life. The hard part really was just stringing and waiting for the judging in the end. The whole night was just great fun, being here with everybody. It didn’t feel like a difficult atmosphere. It was a good way to create."

Awaiting with the judging was instructor of Studio and Digital Arts Melissa Maloney, who said that the agreement to be a judge because she wants to be able to cheer her students on as they go through and beyond school assignments.

"I wasn’t sure what to expect," Maloney said. "I was expecting good things, but our expectations were exceeded. Overall, the show of work was great. Particularly a lot of portfolios, a lot of illustrations. I was impressed especially because they were on the those. They had no time to be well done. It was really good."
Connecting through worship

Gospel Community Church Praise Band and Gavin Davis visit Waldon Pond Apartments clubhouse

According to Community Services, well-known Christian artists and bands are often invited to the community to perform. In March, the band performed, "We enjoyed performing because an event like this allows students to refocus on their purpose—to be lights for Christ. Being part of that is a privilege."

Gavin Davis

Performing

Community Services hosts their first nights of worship this year.

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COMS students visit D.C.
Journalism class experiences media at work on a field trip to the nation's capital

Kyle Harver
kharver@liberty.edu

Have you ever wondered what America's first newspapers looked like? If you are curious, find out one of the 80 students who joined Liberty University communications professor Delbert Huff on her trip to Washington, D.C. March 19—they could tell you all about it. The students, most of whom are upperclassmen in Huff's investigative reporting class, made a visit to the Newseum, the Fox News Washington bureau and the Capitol Radisson Building for a tour and greet with several Liberty university now working in various capacities in the D.C. meters area.

The Newseum, which is located on Pennsylvania Avenue with a view of the Capitol Building, is a news junkie's dream. The aviary building featured a variety of exhibits highlighting everything from old newspapers, famous radio and television broadcasts to artifacts from some of the biggest historical events—both in America and abroad.

"We were unique seeing how newspaper coverage has progressed and changed over time—especially since 9/11," Liberty junior Derrick Botte said.

One of the exhibits was a giant wall of headlines and photos published around the world Sept. 12, 2001. "It just takes me back to my childhood," Botte said. "Reliving those pictures and reflecting the moments from that day.

From the Newseum, students headed over to the Fox News building, five blocks away, where they get a prime view of all the studios and workspaces of America's No. 1 rated cable news network. Shannon Bream, a Liberty alumna who later moved to CNN as a lawyer to pursue television, offered words of wisdom about the media business as she conducted a tour of the entire bureau. Bream currently works as a legal analyst.

Some students were also able to meet and greet Piers Morgan, a giggle assign- ment reporter for the Washington bureau, while others met news anchor Bert Braine. "We had great opportunities be able to tour such a well-known news station," Liberty senior Andrew Woodfill said.

After their time in the newseum, the students represented with a variety of alumni as well Rep. Robert Hurt, who spoke to the students at length about the interplay between politicians and the media.

"I thought it was great that he decided to come down and talk to us about how journalism and politics come together," Woodfill said. "It was cool to get a different perspective on our careers.

Also in attendance was Liberty alumna Kristy Way from the office of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor as well as Alex- andra Palmoli, Caroline Biggs and Al- ex Howard of the Concerned Women of America. Several other alumni appeared many of whom are working in congressional offices.

The entire event was orchestrated and planned by Liberty alumni and Com- munications Director for the House Commit- tee on Small Business David "BJ" Jordan. "He pulled together an incredible networking opportunity for our students," Huff said.

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enth AVENUE continued from Page 30

"I still major in theatre, so now I can at least act like I'm a really good musician," Dumbrey said with a laugh.

According to Dumbrey, the idea to bring the Ten Avenue North feature film and native playing music together during Dumbrey's freshman year. The next year, Dumbrey and Jackson freed one room apart from each other in Ten Avenue North, the area for which they eventually named their band.

"The last thing that I thought I would be doing is singing and making music for a living," Dumbrey said. "But we thought we had to plan it in the dorm room, and I started writing songs."

As the band began gaining popularity, the struggle continued for Dumbrey and the rest of Ten Avenue North. According to him, constantly being on the road and working with the rest of the band took some work. He even considered being in a band to being invited to four other people.

The band's current tour will come to an end in April, but according to Do- wrey, they are planning to spend their summer playing at festivals, visiting and working on a new Music-style Christmas album.

According to Dumbrey, explaing Lindzberg is one of his favorite things to do when Ten Avenue North comes to town.

"We know what I really deal with? I like going to downtown Lindzberg and hitting up the White Hart. That's a great experience.

Even though the White Hart's owner, owner of the hotel, is a chance March 30, Dumbrey was still enthusiastic about the prospect of playing in a packed Vines Center.

"This is to play to a bunch of other univer- sity students in an intimate setting. It seems like It's great," Dumbrey said.

Later, the information about Ten Avenue North's upcoming concert, visit liberty.edu for more.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

Champion corrections
In the March 3 edition, in the article titled "World of Social Media," the Champion reported that Josh. Brolin has been made to read his master's, He is still in the process of completing it.
Students go crazy for Lecrae

The Grammy-winning hip-hop artist spoke at a Student Activities concert on March 22

Daniel Barrett

Students entered the Liberty University Convocation Center March 22 to see multi-talented hip-hop artist Lecrae摩e, who spoke about overcoming struggles in his life and performing a number of his songs.

Lecrae, who has released three albums, opened the performance by speaking about his struggle in life and how music helps him cope with the pain he has experienced.

"I was on track for the world of music," Lecrae said. "But I got hurt and I couldn't sing anymore. I needed to change my way of thinking and realize that I was putting all of my energy into something that would never lead me to the right place."

Lecrae's music has a message about Christian living and the importance of staying true to one's beliefs.

"I want people to know that they can live their life in Christ and still have fun and still be successful," Lecrae said.

Lecrae's performance was punctuated by applause from the packed crowd, which ranged in estimated size from 3,700 to 5,000 people.

"I think that he's a great performer and I was really impressed by his honesty," Liberty student Kristen Liberti said. "I really enjoyed his energy and how he was able to connect with his audience."

Lecrae ended the concert by coming back on stage to answer questions from the audience.

"I think it was a really great experience," Liberty student Ashley Sanders said. "I really enjoyed hearing him speak and answering questions. It was really encouraging to hear someone else's story and see how they were able to overcome their struggles."

Lecrae's performance was the culmination of a week-long event at Liberty. The event, which featured a variety of speakers and performers, was sponsored by Liberty's Student Activities office.

"We wanted to bring in someone who could speak to Liberty students about overcoming struggles in life," Liberty Student Activities Coordinator John Lutz said. "Lecrae is someone who has faced his own struggles and has come out on top. His message is one that we hope will resonate with our students."

Lecrae's performance was the highlight of the event, which also included a design competition, a talent show, and a series of guest speakers.

"We wanted to give our students a chance to showcase their talents and to hear from people who are doing great things," Lutz said. "It's been a really exciting week for our students."

Lecrae's performance was met with enthusiastic support from the Liberty student community. The event was held in the Convocation Center, which is a popular venue for Liberty's Student Activities office.

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