Finding missing $50,000

Justin Jones
jljones@liberty.edu

It would take a rare occasion for ABC's "Good Morning America" to find its way to Lynchburg, Va. But when a Greater Lynchburg Transit Company employee found a missing $50,000 dollars online, the popular morning show took notice and filmed the celebration that later aired on Feb. 17.

For 21 months, Debbie Evans and the 39 members of GLTC's employee benefit association had been searching for the missing money they were owed when the association dissolved. Evans, who has been employed at GLTC for nearly six years, found the money on the Virginia Department of the Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program's website. With the certificate of deposit...
Bringing Christian values into focus

Ashley Bollinger
abollinger@liberty.edu

The Values Bus rolled into Lynchburg, encouraging students to register to vote for the upcoming Presidential elections with their “Vote Monday, Values Vote, Vote 2012” tour.

The Values Bus is the brainchild of the Family Research Council’s Executive Director, FRC Action and the Heritage Foundation.

Offering young adults the opportunity to actually vote, the Heritage Foundation and FRC Action joined together to better promote their campaigns, according to Senior Vice President of FRC Action Thomas McClusky.

"FRC Action has partnered with the Heritage Foundation a lot on a number of different things. There are a lot of shared friends, both organizations,” McClusky said. “They’ve worked with us on an event in Lynchburg, our annual big event, which is the Values Bus tour.

The two organizations decided to join together also as a part of their ongoing efforts through 2010, according to McClusky. According to the Values Bus website, Liberty was one of many stops on the Values Bus tour.

“We have a few great partnerships here at Values Bus, one of which is with Politics, an alum,” McClusky said. "President Barack Obama has supposedly really got the right mindset to see, except when you look at the future that’s not just true. So what we are trying to do is to target the traditionally conservative colleges like Liberty where the few best people are to be champions.”

They want to get involved and just ‘bring something’ on Facebook.”

Though both organizations have come together to play a part, they also have both different focuses, according to their respective websites. McClusky said partnering their Saving the American Dream budget plan for the future and lowering and balancing the budget for at least 15 years; Moral Victory is pushing the priority of religious liberty. Although the groups say they are complementing each other, McClusky believes it is impossible to get people to register and vote their values.

According to McClusky when a student registers and vote on the computer, the students who generated the Values Bus, their bus automatically gets put on a system that will connect them to TU or 30 like-minded people who are not registered to vote in their area. This list of registered students was created by McClusky called the ‘champion’ list.

“This will allow people to encourage each other to register and use their values, when they vote. Getting people to vote is just the first step in getting them active in government. It is a lot of what we do at FRC.”

McClusky said, “We have a church outreach program and we have a state legislation program where we try to work to see our state.”

This goal is to motivate Christian Americans to be involved in the public sphere. There is this almost mythology of separation of church and state and people think that the church can’t get involved in politics. McClusky said.

Neither organization is endorsing a candidate, however, they do not stay away from certain values to look for, McClusky said.

“We need more people active in government,” McClusky said. “We need a lot of voices in government, in both parties, otherwise one party is going to control the conversation and the other party is just going to sit in the background.”

Students can register to be a “Champion” on ivoter.org.

BOLLINGER is the editor in chief.

Welcome Liberty families

Valerie Brunnner
Avatar News Editor

Liberty University’s Parent and Family Connections will be hosting its fourth annual Spring Family Weekend on March 2-4, where students’ families can come and enjoy a fun weekend full of events.

For the Spring Family Weekend, an estimated 500 parents will come and join their students in classes and conversation Friday, March 2. Activities planned for the weekend are touring the campus, family game night during the Fall Family Weekend, Stomp at Saucer, basketball game, basketball game, theater production, family lunch, coffee cup meet and parent and family movie night.

“I love every minute. It was wonderful. I was there with people that were in it to be there,” Dunbar said.

Liberty’s Fall Family Weekend is much larger with an attendance of 3,000 family members. Parents and guests in and out of state from North America to attend, including Canada and California.

For parents who are happy about the work that Fall Family Weekend that Spring Family Weekend began after multiple requests from parents in a survey. Spring Family Weekend is not just an essential quality that allows stu- dents and their parents to have fun, but are also a great way to take a collection to buy Liberty Stuff.

“We had an awesome time,” one of two younger daughters, ages 16 and 12, are still singing Candace Cameron at conversation and to wear Liberty shirts with their classes. They also

willingly pay the tuition to the values bus, their bus automatically gets put on a system that will connect them to TU or 30 like-minded people who are not registered to vote in their area. This list of registered students was created by McClusky called the ‘champion’ list.

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“I love every minute. It was wonderful. I was there with people that were in it to be there,” Dunbar said. "The next year, the family connections office began in 2005 after an overwhelming turnout for parent’s day, which began in 2001 and was sponsored by athletics. The first parent’s day had 400 in attendance. The next year, the number doubled. By 2003, 1,200 parents on average were attending parent’s day.

We want to provide this because we recognized how involved families are," Dunbar said.

To register for the event, visit the Parent and Family Connections page at www.liberty.edu. For more information, contact the office by phone at (434) 582-2339. BRUNNER is a news reporter.
Flipping, flopping and flying through the air, Liberty's co-ed gymnastics club team is gearing up to win. Consisting of nine competing gymnasts and led by Coach Mariah Dailey, the team started only three years ago.

"When we started the first year, we had a pretty small team. We took five members to Nationals in Texas. Since then, we've gotten a new coach and acquired a few new teammates," Steele said.

David Tighe, a senior from Boise, Idaho, talked about the big changes within the last couple of years, from facilities and team down to skill improvement. "Since the 2010-11 season, we've seen our team go from practicing in a local gymnastics club to having its own facility. New members have joined from our own backyard (Liberty's student population) from new freshmen to transfer students. Our skill level continues to increase as the team establishes itself," Tighe said.

"High-bar is nothing but fun. It's like being on a roller coaster, except if you let go of the rail, there's nothing to hold you in, and it's all up to you. It's also probably the closest you can get to the feeling of controlled flight," Tighe said.

"God has used the sport to teach me how to find 'satisfaction in my toil.'" —DAVID TIGHE

"Someone told me that sports can be seen as another metaphor for life, and life is a metaphor for heaven. For me, gymnastics has done, and continues to do, just that." —Tighe

The Liberty gymnastics team will head to Nationals this year in Salt Lake City April 19 to 21.
Since protests against tyranny began 11 months ago, more than 5,000 Syrians have been killed by government forces.

"We don't want to take ac-

counts that would contribute to
the further militarization of
Syria that will destroy the
country down a dange-

rous path," White House Press
Secretary Jay Carney said.

"We don't rule out ad-

ditional "deadly" for opposing
UN resolutions, whether or not the United
States' ambitions to prevent war-
lke confrontations.

"We're the dark matter. We're the force that orders the universe but can't see it and found the shrapnel had

But, let's be honest. How many times can the President speak the same words as we all did by now? Is anyone really being ha-

red by the same simplistic, "gas prices are high, so let's tax oil companies" approach, or are we finally starting to realize that it's much more complex than that?

G a prices nationwide are hitting new records, and just in time for spring break.

However, this is nothing new -- really nothing new. After President Barack Obama "took Our price at the pump, and we know that he claimed his position on energy development given on Florida in Feb. 23.

"The truth is there is no silver bullet that can bring down gas prices. You can't just walk away, but there are a few things we can do," Obama said in his speech last April. "This includes waiving restrictions on the production of oil from conservation, in Congress. I'm convinced that we should have done that.

"Well, I think that this 'long-term' plan has still found us in an even grayer situation a year later. Gas prices are a record high for this time of year. Though the spring season has to have its eye on us, there is always a need to keep our eyes on these political figures.

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**Students compete in Air Race Classic**

**School of Aeronautics students prepare to fly across US**

Omar Adams
vala@ liberty.edu

Two teams of Liberty University students will fly in the 2012 Air Race Classic in June. The 2,400-mile transcontinental race is an annual race over the U.S. route 10, 1929 “Powder Puff” Air Derby flown by Amelia Earhart.

Fifty teams will fly from Lake Havasu, Ariz., north to South St. Mary’s Church in Grants’ Upper Peninsula, before landing at Bastia, Ohio. According to Liberty flight instructor and student mechanic Sarah Morris, who won the 2011 race while flying for her dad, Jameson, Liberty University — the event usually takes four days.

“Each aircraft has its own handicap speed, and basically, whoever flies the speed by the greatest margin wins,” Morris said. “It’s not who gets to the finish line first, it’s whoever breaks their own speed.”

Morris will coach Liberty’s team this year, leading her experience as both an Air Race Classic and a certified flight instructor (CFI). Dispatcher Brandi Brown will provide weather tracking and logistical support.

Liberty’s competition comes from different sides. Student pilot Esther Di and Mollie Melton — both training to become airline pilots — will be paired up, while GTI and recent mechanical student graduate Josh Meden and helicopter student Naomi Satterfield make up the second team.

“I’m from Papua New Guinea, and we have less than 10 female pilots flying in our country, so it’s an unheard-of event,” Meden said. “I’m going to use it as a voice to encourage women, I have some friends who are male-dominated, so bring that part of me will adopt to the team to go back and encourage women.”

Both Meden and Di want to fly for major airlines in the future. Di will be the first New Guinean to fill such a role, and she intends to eventually return to Papua New Guinea to fly for Morris, Gray and Satterfield are all aiming to become missionary aviators. Satterfield is looking at Nepal, and Morris and Gray are both considering missionary work. I would like to go into missions, specifically helicopter search and rescue, as a platform ministry in closed countries,” Satterfield said. “I love mountaineering, and I have a heart for Alpinists and guides and the Sherpa communities.”

Both teams are looking forward to making the race an opportunity to share the Gospel and represent the university as well. “I think it’s a really good opportunity to represent Liberty, and more than that, to represent Christ,” Satterfield said. “We’re going across the country, so we’re going to encounter people from all over and we’ll conduct ourselves in a manner that gives the Lord … I think it will bring up opportunities for us to talk about that.”

In last year’s race, Morris was able to do that. “After we went through one of the airports, I got an email from one of the guys saying, ‘I found this thing that we found something different about your team, and then I read your bio, and I know it was you who said that you’re going to sit down and talk about Jesus to this man, and then there was nothing for the whole family.”

学校组织学生参加Air Race Classic，为飞越美国做准备。
was great to see the support and enthusiasm everyone from the plunge,” one of my best friends, so I love getting to events such as these. He is a great guy and involved as I can,” Tussey said. POWLEY is a news reporter.

POWLEY continued from A1

The event was the largest fundraiser for the Special Olympics Virginia. The cost to plunge was $30, or a team or individual could raise $500 to plunge a professor or coach. “We’re excited to see what the Hill City Polar Plunge will do next year. It was cool to see all the vendors and the Lynchburg community come out together to support the Special Olympics,” Collins said. Journal Dana Tussey is a registered plunger who raised money and helped to get donations and find more plungers.

Tussey had a special bond brother back home who participates in the Polar Plunge and Special Olympics,” Tussey said. “He has been my inspiration to get involved in events such as these. He is a great guy and one of my best friends, so I love getting as involved as I can.”

It was really teaching us how eager everyone was to get into the water. A part of it might have been how eager they were to get over it, but it was also the support for the cause. The outcome and the giving... it was great to see the support and the enthusiasm and everyone who dove from the plunge,” Collins said.

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BLACK TIE continued from A1

WINNERS — The Judge’s Choice award winners, who filmed for CauseLife, posed with the judges following the event.

BLACK TIE continued from A1

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liberty university STUDENTS & FACULTY

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American Red Cross
Hockey enters Nationals No. 5
Handy and co. are well-poised for a deep run

Jay Sir
ysir@liberty.edu

It’s been two years since Liberty University last went to the ACHA National Tournament. Last season, Liberty narrowly missed a chance to compete in the tournament they’ve been regulars in, but this year, the Liberty men’s Division I hockey team is coming back to the national stage much improved.

“We didn’t play as many top-caliber teams two years ago as we had this year, so we feel pretty good that we’re going in battle-tested,” head coach Kirk Handy said. “We’ve played a lot of the top teams during the regular season this year and a lot of them ended up being tight games. Those experiences are really going to help us as we head into the national tournament.”

With the way we have, we’re confident with the coaching staff and we’re confident that if we play our game in the way we have set we’re going to be fine. The Flames head into the tournament with a 23-8 record after testing their mettle in the season with the likes of No. 1 Delaware. They will have to improve. Last season, the Flames narrowly missed a chance to compete in the tournament with a 23-8 record after testing their mettle in the national tournament.

“We are well-poised for a deep run,” Handy added. “We have a lot of experience and we’re confident we can get it done.”

See ACHA, B4

Seniors Victorious
With teammates’ help, the seniors finish with a win

Derrick Battle
dcbattle@liberty.edu

When the buzzer sounded zero, a celebration erupted in the Vines Center. The Liberty men’s basketball team defeated Campbell 79-70 and clinched the fifth seed in the Big South tournament. However, the win was sweeter for four seniors.

With John Brown sidelined, guards David Minaya, Jesse Sanders and forward Tamar Hay played their final home game at Liberty. But although the game was decided for the seniors, it was forward junior Antwan Burrus, junior guard Tavares Speaks and sophomore forward Antwan Burrus who led the way.

Combined, the trio of Burrus, Speaks and John Caleb Sanders accounted for 45 of Liberty’s 59 points. In an off shooting night, Jesse Sanders and Minaya tallied three points combined, but it was enough for the victory.

“It took a lot of heart,” head coach Dale Lawer said. “That was the best defense effort I’ve seen all year. Defensively we have progressed to the point that it’s a factor.”

Seniors Victorious
With teammates’ help, the seniors finish with a win

Derrick Battle
dcbattle@liberty.edu

The Lady Flames women’s basketball team defeated the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs 76-43 Saturday. For the Lady Flames, seeing their teammates and friends, seniors Avery Warley and Danika Dale, go out with a victory was very important as it clinched the number one seed in the Big South Tournament.

“It was a goal to clinch the number one seed, and it is a great way for the seniors to go in this particular game,” head coach Carey Green said. “We had a great crowd here. We thank the students and community for coming out in appreciation of the contribution of our two seniors, Danika Dale and Avery Warley. I can’t say enough how much I appreciate them and how they contributed to this program.”

Holding the Bulldogs
The Lady Flames held the Bulldogs to only 49 points. The Lady Flames held the Bulldogs to only 9-26 (11 percent) from the field and 10-21 (47 percent) from the stripe. For the game, the Lady Flames held the Bulldogs to only nine field goals.

“I think we played one of our best halves of our whole season,” Green said. “That first half defensively contesting shots, we were in the right position. We have been working on that for the most part. The first 20 minutes we were pretty good getting into defensive position.”
From one brother to another

After playing together for 12 years, Jesse and John Caleb Sanders have formed a dangerous backcourt duo

By Kyle Harvey

Senior Salutes
By Kyle Harvey

Coach Green on Avery's career: "She's been beyond our expectation and we've seen true in every area. Spiritually, academically and just who she is. She's pleasure to be around and her leadership this year has been outstanding"
LOUISVILLE -- Liberty University men's club lacrosse team upset the Mountaineers of Appalachian State on a penalty Saturday afternoon, 16-11 behind the play of sophomore Kurt Tobian and sophomore John Ferris. Ferris led the way for the Flames with five goals and an assist while Tobian added two goals and four assists.

"Today we were able to get (Tobian) and (Ferris) in good positions to score goals," head coach Kyle McQuillan said. "Tobian has great ball possession and awareness of where he needs to send it to. Tobian did a great job of drawing two defenders then finding the open man."

We were able to take guys away and confide the defense, especially with our back door cuts," Ferris said. "We also were able to force some mistakes and take advantage of them."

The tandem of Tobian and Ferris worked wonders the entire game. Their partnership on the playing field stems from their work ethic on the practice field, as well as their relationship off it.

"We work a lot with each other in practice, and we also do a lot of stuff together outside of lacrosse," Tobian said.

The Flames were able to control the tempo throughout the game. They pushed the tempo on counter attack and scored a goal down when playing in the offensive zone, keeping the ball moving and waiting for holes to open up in the defense.

"That's part of lacrosse," McQuillan said. "Knowing when to push it and when to slow down. We try to get the right people in the right places at the right times, and then push it to an advantage.

Strong defensive play by sophomores Nathan Lawmaster and Travis Briggs, and senior Michael Zumpano, led to counter attacks for the Flames.

"Our captains are all pretty solid playmakers, but I think we'll come out to face Liberty with a lot more in the defense."

The Flames' next game is Friday, March 2, when they play host to the Eagles of Reinhardt University. The Flames then go on to a four game road trip where they will play four days in a row.

MEYERS is a sports reporter.

Men's lacrosse wins home opener

Michael Robertson and Zack Haley provided key hits in victories Saturday and Sunday afternoon

The Mountaineers drew first blood when their attacking tandem spread open the scoring for the day after, coming on a goal and going on to put it in the Flames junior goalie Aas Koning. The Flames responded by scoring four straight goals from Tobias, sophomore Dan Forbes, Ferris and freshman Will Perkins.

With 35 seconds remaining in the first half, senior David Noll attacked on the right side, gave his defender a little shimmie then ripped a left-handed shot to hand the Flames a 6-5 lead heading into the halftime break.

The Flames pulled away in the second half to score four goals in the span of 20 seconds. Derek Haywood slipped through the center of the Mountaineer defense and cracked a shot into the top corner. Thirty seconds later, sophomore Travis Briggs played a quick pass to Ferris, who flipped it to Forbes, who slipped it to the first-mounted net minder. On the ensuing faceoff, Perkins won the ball, a last defender then passed it to Ferris who stepped it in the goal to increase the Flames lead to 9-3.

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Flames victorious in weekend series

Michael Robertson and Zach Haley provided key hits in victories Saturday and Sunday afternoon

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Flames victorious in weekend series

Michael Robertson and Zack Haley provided key hits in victories Saturday and Sunday afternoon

"Regardless of who you're playing, baseball is not an easy sport to get up and maintain a lead every time," Aanderud said. "It certainly wasn't our best game. We should've had a little better energy. There's a lot of room for improvement after this. When you lose a game, it's hard to say how you contributed, because obviously it wasn't enough. We gave thanks to God regardless of the circumstance."

"We're going to treat them like a team," captain Michael Roberston said. "We just didn't get the timely hits like we did last week."

Sunday, the Flames capped off their weekend with a 4-2 afternoon victory against the Saints.

Flames storming Zach Haley coliseum for two RBIs on three hits in the win.

LEASURE and PEARSON are sports reporters.

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ACHA continued from B1

playing their game. Anytime you're going into a tournament like this, it's a great privilege to be going and it shows the amount of work each player put in to get to that point.

Since their last appearance in the national tournament, the Flames' Winter 11 players on the roster who have not seen the playoffs.

"I would say that we have a team that's just as good inVEC

Chris Males, a Liberty senior, started coaching youth rec basketball last year. He and his wife, also a Liberty senior, felt a call to minister to kids by challenging them to do things they thought they could. It's not an internship. CMER or a class project. This is more room.

Every kid needs to be able to see they are, who God says they are, and no one tells them that, they won't believe it," Chris said.

Basketball provides the opportunity for Chris and Kelsey to show Christ, not just share Him.

"We get to practice and games, and we take our game MVP to McDonald's and we have the opportunity to share with them that way," Chris said.

The mentorship and their investment, by Chris, Kelsey, and El, a Liberty grad student, has slowly formed some of the rougher edges of the team.

"They're a lot less selfish," Chris said. "They understand teamwork. We'd be in a huddle at the end of the game at the beginning of the season, and they'd get mad that they didn't score. Now they're high-living each other like, 'Yeah, man, you got four steals, and it's good to see them encouraging each other,'" Chris said.

The team believing in themselves is just a byproduct of a learned example, demonstrated by Chris.

"I show that by defending them in a game or looking out for their best interest," Chris said. "I'm not all about winning, but to have fun and to grow leaders.

"Simply, 'encourage us to try,'" Kelsey said.

"Yeah," Bryce said.

"Yeah," Carlos said.

It's Liberty students making an impact by taking Christ outside of the classroom.

"In a sense," Chris said. "It comes down to whom kids are loved upon, they respond a lot more. When they do finally buy in to what you're trying to do, they'll do anything for you.

And I like that I can make an impact, "I taught us about life — to not quit. To keep on moving," Carlos said.

"Yeah," Bryce said.

"Yeah," Kelsey said. "Keep playing.

BROWN is the sports editor.
Students journey to jumps

Justin Berry  
jlbcrry@liberty.edu

The Liberty Mountain Snowflex Center (LMSC) began its second Trials 2 Rides experience, Journey to the Jumps, Feb. 21, offering students an opportunity to expand their skills in skiing or snowboarding.

Students took to the slopes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. to participate in the initial tryout sessions for Journey to the Jumps. The tryout sessions were open to any Liberty University student who wanted to learn more about skiing or snowboarding, while learning to execute jumps.

Lindsey Green, Director of LMSC Ski School, Brent Blakely, said in order to be a part of the program, students had to attend at least one of the tryout sessions so that the instructors and coaching staff could meet the participants and observe their skill level.

The tryouts the first week were conducted at the beginners slope to see how much skill the students had, and to see if they would be taken to the next level.

While no skills were required to attend, many students just wanted to expand their skills by learning to do simple jumps.

“I skied my whole life, but have never really tried the jumps,” sophomore Madison Ready said. “I wanted to see if they would be taken to the next level.

The coaching staff at the LMSC made their selections Thursday evening to who would be advancing to the next round of Journey to the Jumps.

The coaching staff during the second week were based on who would be advancing to the next round of Journey to the Jumps. Each student that the coaching staff urged to start with the basics and build from there.

BERRY is a feature reporter.
Students voted for their favorite acts, and C. sic that you create,” Justin Smith, electric guitarist for Spencer York, said. “It just really fun to be able to play the music that we create.”

In the end, nearly 500 people filled the Tilley Student Center Friday night after five bands competed to win a $1,200 gift card to Musicianfriend.com. Audience members voted for the favorite act on the Student Activities Facebook page.

**Coffeehouse Tryouts Begin**

Shelanie Jennings
shelaniejennings@liberty.edu
Lyon Phoneline
bphoneline@liberty.edu

Big hats, neon colors and everything 80s will be taking over Liberty University’s Student Activities Coffeehouse on March 9. The biannual show that fills the vines每 year is set to feature singing, sketchings and not be so serious conversations. Those who watch the event will get to audition for the show. “We collectively picked 80s based off of our understanding of the student body and what is currently trending,” Associate Director of Student Activities Alex Chandler said. “Granted, the student body is so diverse we had to choose from them.”

Students who have already been preparing to audition for the show will get their chance Feb. 27, 29 and March 5-7 at the Tilley Student Center.

“The 8th theme offers a considerable amount of material for songs, sketches and videos,” Chandler said.

Chandler noted that she hopes to see at least one cover of a Whitney Houston or Michael Jackson song because of the theme’s inspiration. “The nostalgia we, at Student Activities, strive to evoke each year is one with the students. The Student Activities group asks that only full band songs be covered to stick with the theme.”

According to Student Activities Coffeehouse announcement, located on the Liberty Lights on Campus. “Time after time, people somehow miss tryouts. Before the Coffeehouse celebration can begin, you need to rehearse and then come to Coffeehouse Tryouts.”

JENNINGS is a feature editor.

**Class of ’14 Hosts Flirt Fest**

Ashley Addington
aaddington@liberty.edu

While students are used to hearing relationship advice from their peers or professors during Campus Church on Wednesdays, they received an extra dose at the Flirt Fest. Students flocked to the Tilley Center after church on Feb. 22 for an even put on by the Freshmen Class.

“The event had a casual atmosphere where students were encouraged to ask King any question related to love or relationships,” King said. “This is a fun, relaxed, low-key environment where we can laugh at ourselves and not be so uptight about relationships.”

King was asked were line of questions which, in return, “There were a few serious questions which, in return, received light and serious answers. There were a few serious questions which, in return, received light and serious answers.”

GARCIA is a feature reporter.

**Battle of the Bands Returns**

Daniel Garcia
dgarcia@liberty.edu

Chant in skinny jeans, V-neck T-shirts and dark shoes, students anticipating an evening of competitive musicianship filled the Tilley Student Center Friday, Feb. 24, for Student Activities’ Battle of the Bands. Five bands representing several musical genres took turns performing their choices of winning the evening’s grand prize, a $1,200 gift card to Musicianfriend.com. Each band was required to perform two songs, one original and one cover. Students voted for their favorite acts, and the two bands tallying the most votes proceeded to the second and final round of the event.

“Regardless of winning or losing, it’s just really fun to be able to play the music that we create,” Justin Smith, electric guitarist for Spencer York, said. “It just really fun to be able to play the music that we create.”

The event was highlighted by well-received covers songs and crowd-pleasing originals. “The Rose Dynamic, a queer-identified band with a history of punk rock appeal, began with a tune titled ‘Goldfinch,’ before breaking into a ravingly enthusiastic rendition of Lady Gaga’s ‘Bad Romance.’”

Regardless of winning or losing, it’s just really fun to be able to play the music that we create.”

“1 wasn’t really expecting to have the crowd get up to it,” Cory Rock, Adalia’s bassist, said. “Well, we’d been a band that feeds off of that. There were some people that were really close friends of ours that were up front, singing the songs and everything. It’s worth more to the hands on stage than people might think.”

After the bands – Chasing the Horizon, Spencer York, Smoke and Mirrors, The Rose Dynamic, and Adalia – performed their songs, students voted on the Student Activities Facebook page for their favorite performance. The two bands carrying the most votes — Adalia and Chasing the Horizon — proceeded to the final round of the event.

Taking the stage for the second time, Adalia covered Five For Fighting’s acoustic number “Dance,” as well as another tune of their own, Richmond-based Chasing the Horizon followed with “The Anthem” and Taylor Swift’s “Love Story,” much to the approval of the audience. The performances drew equally passionate responses from the crowd, but Chasing the Horizon received the grand prize.

“Being here, you really do thrive off of all the crowds,” Lalonde said. “The Lord gave us so much ability to play these sorts of things. We never thought we’d do this, and this crowd re- responded accordingly so much. It put a smile on my face. I can’t stop smiling.”