Liberty responds to student concerns
ASHLEY BOLLINGER
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As university improvements continue to unfold, changes in academics have caused students and faculty to question the administrators reasoning regarding recent cutbacks.

Over the past 40 years, Liberty University has maintained a steady increase of students, academic programs and facilities. Liberty's Vice President for Administration, Information Management and Registrar Lawrence Shackleford said that the changes in course offerings will not hinder students from reaching their desired graduation date.

The rapid growth of the university has caused some students such as current junior Beki Eisentrout to question why the university is in need of cutbacks at all.

"We have cut or are going to cut some courses that are not necessary to complete a degree," Godwin said. "Courses that have fallen from chemistry low enrollment over the past three years.

However, Liberty's Vice President for Administration, Information Management and Registrar Lawrence Shackleford said that the changes in course offerings will not hinder students from reaching their desired graduation date."

Enrollment has increased by 40 percent since 2009, according to data from last year that report a total enrollment of 64,610 students. Liberty is also the largest private nonprofit college and university in Virginia.

"We are proud that Liberty has become the national leader among nonprofit universities in online education," Falwell said. "We have committed as a Christian institution to provide this realm of education at Liberty affordable.

We are proud that Liberty is growing because Liberty is unique. We offer an alternative to the religious fanatics and the political correctness that is so pervasive at most universities," Falwell said. "We have also worked hard to keep education at Liberty affordable.

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See EIGHTH A3
Distracted driving legislation falls flat in General Assembly

By MARY SEILKOP
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Liberty University is unique because of its leadership. Whether the student is:param se ome issues in the same way that all other schools do, 100% of the students are involved in our campus community. We offer a wide range of activities and support for students and faculty in order to promote a positive and engaging campus culture.

The University is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and employees. We are committed to creating a culture of respect and accountability, where every individual is valued and treated with dignity.

In conclusion, the University of Liberty is a unique institution that is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and employees. We are committed to creating a culture of respect and accountability, where every individual is valued and treated with dignity.

The University encourages its community members to understand the impact of their actions on others. Let us create a culture that promotes safety, respect, and inclusivity.

The University of Liberty is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and employees. We are dedicated to creating a culture of respect and accountability, where every individual is valued and treated with dignity.

The University encourages its community members to understand the impact of their actions on others. Let us create a culture that promotes safety, respect, and inclusivity.
Dr. Ronald Godwin

There is no student question which we desire to leave unanswered, no concern we wish to treat as trivial.

— Dr. Ronald Godwin

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Nuclear technology: Risky Business

AMY ROTALL
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High-risk energy with a high payroll. But is it worth it?

The earthquake and tsunami acted as the key to unlocking the latest from its cage as the now Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant is releasing radioactivity in the surrounding area.

Despite the heroic efforts of technicians and engineers fighting to prevent a full nuclear melt-down at the quake-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant last week, technicians say that the situation remains critical. Within days of the initial quake, the nuclear reactor facility was damaged, leading to a partial melt-down and a subsequent lack of cooling water for the reactor.

The Strauss Institute, a security and nuclear risk think tank, has released a report stating that the situation remains critical. The institute advises that the situation could escalate further, leading to a full nuclear melt-down.

The Strauss Institute's report came after a series of events, including the partial melt-down of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, which led to a loss of coolant and subsequent lack of cooling water for the reactor.

The Strauss Institute notes that the situation remains critical and warns that the risk of a full nuclear melt-down remains high. The institute advises that international cooperation is essential to address the crisis.

The Strauss Institute's report comes as international organizations and governments are working to contain the effects of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear accident. Several nations have pledged assistance, including the United States, France, and Japan itself.

The Strauss Institute's report highlights the ongoing crisis and the need for international cooperation to address the situation. The institute calls for increased efforts to contain the nuclear accident and prevent further damage.
Egypt captured the globe’s attention with its civil unrest. Almost immediately after the resignation of Egypt’s President, Hosni Mubarak, the world’s attention was diverted to Tunisia and Libya. Post-democratic movements broke out in Tunisia, which inspired Libyan citizens to rebel against Muammar Gaddafi, their leader for over four decades.

Gaddafi has vowed publicly to “die a martyr” in battle against the rebels and nations supporting them (France, the United Kingdom and the United States). It seems as though the United States does a good deed by supporting the oppressed Libyans against a tireless dictator; however, proper procedure was not followed.

Under the United States Constitution, the Congress has the power to declare war. The issue of U.S. involvement in Libya was not even set before Congress at a vote.

America is not in a position to police Libya, ‘America should straighten its own problems out before straightening out the problems of other nations,” Kaleb Ramey said.

Many Liberty students have echoed Ramey’s words.
According to Liberty University Military Affairs, there are more than 230 student veterans studying on campus and another 1,700 online. Some of them may have been trained by Pfc. Jason Irizarry.

In 1999, Irizarry, a Florida native, joined the US Army three years after high school and was deployed to Fort Irwin, Calif., home of the Army’s National Training Center (NTC). The NTC has two home units that serve as “Opposing Forces” (OPFOR) and light mock battles with regular Army tanks that cycle through to train for desert warfare.

The OPFOR are arranged as troops from the fictitious country of Krasnovia and use US vehicles made to look like Russian military vehicles. “Krasnovian” troops use Russian tactics plus one. In other words, if a Russian tank platoon has four tanks, the OPFOR would have five that way the OPFOR or were one tank, when he trained the first troops to deploy to Iraq. After the events of September 11, 2001, he desperately tried to reenlist but was “very angry” when the Army refused. Troops stationed at Fort Irwin were given the choice to deploy to Iraq, and Irizarry would have been one of those volunteers. Still, he took solace in the fact that he was struck by how much Falwell cared for people.

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He was an amazing individual,” Irizarry said. “I keep for the students who should get a chance to benefit from his wisdom and from him. Irizarry said he is “very proud” of the work that Jerry Falwell Jr. and his wife Becki Falwell have done for the university in the following years and that Falwell Jr. has been really bringing up his legacy.

As a theater student, Irizarry is grateful to the theater department for “introducing a new aspect to his life.” He is not entirely sure what to do when he graduates, but he seems to be involved acting and relating to people. “I love people, and I love to express myself different ways.” Irizarry said. “Being on stage or on screen is just a great way to do it.”

OMAR ADAMS
omadar@liberty.edu

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After moving to Virginia, Irizarry enrolled at Liberty in the spring 2007. He met the late Dr. Jerry Falwell, for “introducing a new aspect to his life.” He is not entirely sure what to do when he graduates, but he seems to be involved acting and relating to people. “I love people, and I love to express myself different ways.” Irizarry said. “Being on stage or on screen is just a great way to do it.”

OMAR ADAMS
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Students lobby in D.C.

Liberty students move to initiate change

KATIE BELL
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While the rest of campus was wound up, three concerned young ladies filled up their cars on opposite sides of campus and drove northeast to the nation's capitol to lobby for a significant decrease in federal spending.

Amanda Haas, Caroline Briggs and Jessica Morrison of Liberty's chapter of Concerned Women for America (CWA) made the three and a half hour trek to Washington, D.C. for their second lobbying trip to D.C. Fifteen students participated in the first trip during the March for Life weekend.

The goal is to let Congress keep its commitments until after midnight. They lobbied from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We were lobbying to get the Senate on board with cutting back on federal spending. A significant portion of our national debt can be attributed to money that Congress allocates to Planned Parenthood. The House of Representatives passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to decrease the budget but it passed without the Pence Amendment or any pro-life riders that prohibit abortion funding," Haas, President and liberty's Chapter of CWA said.

The trio is a majority leader. Harry Reid will crumble the bill in the Senate. Planned Parenthood is a $607 million annually from the federal government and manages to make it off $85 million profit. There are more than 4,500 Title X Health care clinics for women regardless of ability to pay. The 4,500 are Planned Parenthood facilities. Planned parenthood is the number one abortion provider in America.

"Whether they are pro-life or pro-choice, Americans are up in arms over taxpayer dollars. We are responsible for guiding the nation to take a lobbying trip so that everyone to take a lobbying trip so that they can tell the most effective and personal tool accessible to us (with the exception of the ballot box) for communicating our concerns and wishes with those who represent us," Briggs is the Vice President of Liberty's chapter of CWA. Briggs is a government major with a concentration in politics and policy. "I have lobbied with CWA National twice, once in the House and once (this past trip) in the Senate. I find the experience to be very educational and rewarding," Briggs said. "The idea of lobbying Congress seems a little daunting at first, but CWA provides team leaders for each group who are primarily responsible for pushing the conversations, and to take the pressure off of effective volunteers." P 7ing for the trip out of pocket did not deter the trio from making their voices heard in Washington.

"If you are striving to follow God, and you're doing (the lobbying) because you have a passion to care for one, I have said," Haas said.

The next lobbying trip is set for the end of May. If you are interested in participating, you're doing it his way, he's going to take care of you," Haas said. 

The students would love to see more of their newer volunteers. "We hope to see more of our friends, family and country," junior Caro-

"The next three days fea-

deed to support Israel and remember it is the apple of God's eye." Intagine presented a seminar on America and the upcoming election. "America turns its back on Israel God will turn his back on America," Hagee said. He spoke of his experience as a pastor in Israel and the importance of supporting the nation of Israel and its people. "We need to motivate our fellow citizens," Hagee said. "We believe Israel has a right to their land and a right to defend it!"

Music for the gala was provided by the Liberty Jazz Ensemble and desserts were provided by Paradise Catering. 

HEAVNER is a news writer.

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Liberty stands with Israel

CRYSTAL A. HEAVNER
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This semester marked a significant point in Liberty University's political history. March 30 through April 2, liberty hosted the first Israel Emphasis Week on Liberty's campus.

The week boasted prominent speakers from a variety of backgrounds with vested interest in promoting support for the nation of Israel and was hosted by Liberty's Stand for Israel Club (SWI). According to SWI president, Joel Krautter, the purpose of the week was to educate students more on events regarding Israel and correct misinformation about Israel.

After the positive response this week has brought, club members hope to continue Israel Emphasis week in the future.

"I hope it is the beginning of a great tradition here at Liberty," Krautter said.

Wednesday's Convocation consisted of the week with a message from National Chairman of Christians United for Israel, pastor of Covenant Church and author John Hagee. Hagee encouraged stu-

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A decision concerning the new district boundaries had not been made as of press Monday.

"Redistricting must be done every 10 years in compliance with the Equal Protection Clause to accommodate growth and change, which is dictated by the recent 2010 census results," Newman said. "Our area needed to lose a portion of a state senate (but, not too much). My district actually was over populated. I would have had to shed people. We could have very easily expanded Northwest and Central Virginia a bit and solved that problem without losing another seat at all."

However, the House leadership redrew the current districts by stretching the boundaries across the state, causing much strife among — and within — party lines. The new plan combines four Republican Senate Districts, meaning that Republicans will lose their own district in order to protect their state senator. The new districts significantly impact four Republican senators, including Sen. Bill Stanley (R-19), Sen. Ralph Smith (R-23) and Sen Stephen Newman (R-23).

"They decided not only to redistrict, and not only partition re-district — you can kind of expect that out of a party — they're just taken it to absolute extremes," Newman said. "They obviously did it to try and retain control, and we get that."

The Democratic redistricting plan pushes the current districts to the North, stretching the boundaries and causing seemingly awkward new districts in hopes of maintaining control of the state, Newman said. The new districts significantly impact four Republican senators, including Sen. Bill Watkin (R-23), Sen. Ralph Smith (R-23) and Sen Stephen Newman (R-23).

"When you go to the details of who in the Republican Party they went after, they went after the conservative's," Newman said. "There are not really any of six of the true conservatives. Every single one of the conservatives they tried to get or they got. So this is a huge conservative win on the conservations."

Newman's district now includes 24 percent of Smith's current district, stripping Smith of his communities. He will maintain 12 percent of his current district.

"Sen. Ralph Smith, who they have combined with, is one of the most noble men in the legislature," Newman said. "He is a good legislator. He is very well known. Truth be told that this has happened to such a good man, I am going to make sure I am very supportive of him. He is a solid fellow conservative."

According to Newman, the Democratic Party had an agenda when drawing the new district boundaries.

"The warmest to get Sen. Mark D. Ob- shwan (R-26), and they literally tried every- thing they could," Newman said. "They admitted early on that they couldn't do it because they would put their members in danger."

In addition to longer travel distances, the new plan incurs some other issues such as problems with Section V of the Equal Protec tion Clause which deals mainly with the minority vote. "I foresee that they have distanced or un- packed the minority vote in a number of districts," Newman said. "The standard has basically been that minority districts have to be at or near 55 percent minority to be pre- sisted. In some of those cases, they have reduced them down to 49 percent. In other states, that's not been acceptable under the Department of Justice."

The Republican Party offered a counter- plan, called the Watkins-Vogel Plan, which had a deviation of 40 percent. In the Watkins-Vogel Plan, the districts are much more compact. If you look at cities, they try to have as much as possible, one to two representatives," Newman said. "Some of them are not contiguous — that is, none of them are not connected by at least a road that goes over water. (They districts) are reason- ably compact, meaning those districts do not violate Section V of the Federal Code which relates to minority voting."

Although Newman's district has changed drastically, he still maintains a positive atti- tude towards the future.

"Ing is a representative in the Senate of Virginia, it's Dean, one of the highest hon- ors that can be given to an individual." Newman said. "I'm very happy and positive. I'm happy to talk about Ralph. I'm happy about the district. I'm upbeat about the prospect of meeting new people in Crew CLange. I don't have a lot of friends now. I'm looking forward to developing whole new friends in the Botetourt area. It's a great a op- portunity."

# SULLIVAN is a graduate assistant.

www.libertyChampion.com

NEW LINES — The Democratic Party's plan for redistricting requires residents to travel across the state to meet with their Virginia State Senators, passing other senators.

REPUBLICAN PLAN

REDISTRICTING PLANS

Deviation

Split Localities

Continuity

Democrat Plan

Republican Plan

HOWELL

WATKINS-VOGEL

2%

2%

62

60

No

No

CHANGE — The Republican Party's plan would allow for more compact districts, keeping most communities together.

in a way that we're not seen in Virginia," Ne- man said.

One of the communities affected by the new boundaries is Liberty University. in Campbell County is no longer part of the 3rd Bell District.

"The people that live right over the hill in Campbell County — or the part of Lib- erty University, fruits in Campbell County when they start looking for their state sen- ato' will need to look to the North Carolina border," Newman said.

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NEW LINES — The Democratic Party's plan for redistricting requires residents to travel across the state to meet with their Virginia State Senators, passing other senators.
GOING THE DISTANCE

BRANT TOLMAN

The meet lasted from the morning through the late evening with more than 20 events to watch. Some of people were wandering running, prancing and stretching on the arena held at the Matthes-Hopkins Track Complex in preparation of individual events. "This wind is really going to be a factor," Tolman said. "I'm just glad it's not running" just 30 minutes later there was a light drizzle. Among the many events, there were a handful of events not to miss and some competitors to keep an eye out for. The women's pole vault, men's discus, women's long jump, men's 110 hurdles, men's triple jump, men's 800m, men's high jump, women's 400 hurdles and women's 200m were all highly touted events. I'm looking forward to some of the jumps and the 200m. It will be hard to judge how good they are with the wind, but it will be exciting to see the spread," Tolman said. "This long-distance though, well, they will transmit, but it's not going to be pretty." In the men's pole vault liberty placed second with freshman Shelby Fisher posting 5'9". With a month of at the first place finisher freshman Christiansen Crawford at Appalachian State University. In the women's long jump senior Veronica Day of Elon University placed first with a jump of 5'7.2", while Edy Nakam of UVa and Bunsie Harvey of Appalachian St. fought for second place, separated by only a tenth of a second. "I'm also excited to see how Kelly does in the pole vault," Tolman said. "It could be very good, as she is in a crosswind." Temperatures rose slightly throughout the day, giving players and fans a brief break of sunshine. However, with winds still blustering, events like the pole vault were moved indoors. Kelly Shepherd of liberty placed first with an easy win over the competition. His jump was 5'10", while the second place finisher jumped almost two feet shorter. In the men's 110 hurdles, senior Adams was the winner.

See TRACK AND FIELD on B4

Wrestling reclassified

KELLY MARVEL

Liberty University Athletic Director Jeff Barber announced Tuesday that Liberty's wrestling program would be reclassified as a club sport, due to federal gender equity regulations.

These regulations, called Title IX, call for university athletic programs to allow female athletes the same opportunities as males in terms of proportional funding and participation.

According to Title IX, the ratio of male to female athletic programs in a university must equal the ratio of male to female students. This means that 52 percent of university athletic programs must be female athletic programs.

According to Title IX, the ratio of male to female athletes in the student body must equal the ratio of male to female students. This means that 52 percent of university athletic programs must be female athletic programs.

Over the last few years, Liberty has been working toward this provisoality by adding three women's programs.
WRESTLING removed from Big South

In 2009, before the 2010 Division II deadline, Liberty decided to remove wrestling—along with men's bowling and men's soccer—as a varsity sport. However, the decision was made to reclassify wrestling as a varsity sport, starting in the fall.

Keely Marvel | Sports Editor

**WRESTLING removed from Big South**

Liberty Athletics has decided to remove wrestling from its varsity athletics program, effective immediately. This decision comes in response to Title IX regulations and the university's commitment to gender equity in athletics.

Wrestling, along with men's bowling and men's soccer, was removed from the varsity athletics program in 2009. However, Liberty decided to reclassify wrestling as a varsity sport, starting in the fall, due to Title IX regulations.

The university's decision to remove wrestling from its varsity athletics program is part of its ongoing efforts to comply with Title IX regulations and promote gender equity in athletics. Title IX requires athletic programs to have proportional representation of male and female student-athletes. Liberty Athletics has been working to address gaps in representation and ensure compliance with Title IX requirements.

This decision comes after careful consideration and consultation with university officials, including Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. and President Jerry Falwell Sr.

The university's commitment to gender equity in athletics is reflected in its recent amendments to its Athletics Program Policy, which includes provisions for equitable representation of male and female student-athletes in all varsity sports.

Liberty Athletics has a history of innovative and strategic approaches to comply with Title IX regulations. In 2019, the university reclassified football as a club sport, a move that allowed the university to remain in compliance with Title IX while maintaining its competitive edge in football.

The decision to remove wrestling from the varsity athletics program is part of Liberty's ongoing efforts to meet the requirements of Title IX and promote gender equity in athletics. The university is committed to providing opportunities for all student-athletes, regardless of gender, to compete at the highest level.

Keely Marvel is the sports editor. 

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The sun is high about noon on a Sunday. A gentle breeze plays with a swaying American flag hanging limply from its pole. An unseen jet rumbles overhead.

April

The win takes the Lady Flames to 12-14 overall and 3-2 in the Big South conference. The game, which was broadcast on ESPNU, was also a special game for Kevin and April Jace, sisters who are affected by pediatric brain tumors. The Lady Flames teamed up with the Friends of Jaclyn organization to make the sister honorary members of the team. That day the Flames played to UNC Greensboro Wednesday for a doubleheader and return home on Friday to face Charleston Southern.

The Lady Flames softball team recorded double-digit hits for the fifth time in the last eight games with a 7-2 win over Winthrop. The Flames fought back in game two with a 7-6 score of 4-4 until a bottom of the ninth sacrifice fly pushed the Chanticleers to a 5-4 win. The Flames were ahead again during Sunday's game, but lost the lead in the eighth inning with a final score of 5-4. The Flames return home Wednesday to take on James Madison in a one-game homestand at 3 p.m.

Quality Healthcare

Liberty University softball head coach Dale Layer announced Tuesday that sophomore pitcher Evan Gordon has played his last season at Liberty. He will transfer at the end of the semester. According to LibertyHannos.com, Layer said that Gordon wants to play a different position than the guard position he has been playing for the Flames. Gordon's .260 all-time score, was the Flames high score with 144 points per game. He also led the team in free throw percentage and three-point field goal percentage, 67.2 percent and 33.7 percent respectively. He ends his Liberty Flames career with 1,154 points. His brother Evan, Gordon Jr. is a guard for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Christian Values

The Liberty Flames baseball team was swept this weekend by the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers in Big South conference play. Coastal Carolina, which faced the Super Regionals in last year's NCAA Division I Championship Series, handedly beat the Flames Friday in game one of a doubleheader with a 11-7 win. The Flames fought back in game two with a tied score of 4-4 until a bottom of the ninth sacrifice fly pushed the Chanticleers to a 5-4 win. The Flames were ahead again during Sunday's game, but lost the lead in the eighth inning with a final score of 5-4. The Flames return home Wednesday to take on James Madison in a one-game homestand at 3 p.m.

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 PIPE UP — One of the many participants in the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Dew Games hits a box in the slopestyle competition. Riders competed in Big Air and Rail Jam events in front of hundreds of fans.

Quality Healthcare

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Illnesses, Injuries, Chronic Health Issues, Physicals, Preventative Health

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Lady Flames take rough losses, gain experience

KATHERINE LACAZE
liberty.sports@liberty.edu

It was aggression, along with a fast-paced and skilled offense, that helped the Hokies achieve a 18-2 win over the Lady Flames Tuesday evening. March 29th at Osborne Stadium. "They're really aggressive," watching Flames fan said. She was referring to the players from the Virginia Tech lacrosse team, which accumulated a total of 22 goals in last week's game.

"Virginia Tech is always a good team, so we know going into this that it was going to be a really good game for us to able to see a higher level of competition," head coach Ragan Denham said. "We talked a lot about maintaining possession on attack, which they weren't able to do (that evening)."

Freshman goalkeeper Kristen Masullo said_precision that Virginia Tech was going to be such a tough team to face led to nervousness among the Lady Flames as they headed out onto the field at the start of the game.

"The team is very fast, very quick, pretty tall (and) they had great ball movement," senior captain Chloe McIntosh added.

According to McIntosh, the Lady Flames offense was not nearly prepared enough in the first half for what the Hokies offense was going to do. She said that the Lady Flames have not faced a team this year whose players were that proficient with their stick skills.

In the second half the Lady Flames stepped up on defense and were able to stop the Hokies from scoring to the extent that the team had during the first half.

"We were able to play a little tighter," McIntosh said. "We held them a little longer, we made some improvements."

However, it was no match for the insurmountable lead the Hokies had after the first half, for what the Hokies offense was going to do. She said that the Lady Flames have not faced a team this year whose players were that proficient with their stick skills.

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Students preview off-campus living

HEATHER MICHAELS
hmichaels@liberty.edu

Students getting ready to branch out from living on-campus, as well as those ready to graduate but not ready to leave Lynchburg, came out to the Apartment Fair hosted by Liberty’s Office of Community Affairs.

The apartment fair was held at DeMoss Hall on Monday, March 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. More than 20 apartment communities were represented at the fair for students to become acquainted with. One and off-campus students looking for a place to live were encouraged to attend in hopes of finding a fit for an apartment community...

Along with apartment communities, two apartment resource organizations including Apartment Finder magazine and Lynchburg Guide Apartments attended. In addition to those, there was also one furniture company represented at the fair. Among the speakers who have been planning the event since fall, and it is the largest event that Community Affairs runs on campus for students. According to Senior Office Assistant Allee Edward, the Commuter Affairs Apartment Program has been expanding in the past few years.

"It provides students a chance to get a feel for off-campus living," Edward said. "They get to look at all the different types of apartments offer for packages so it kick-starts them for the future." According to the Director of Commuter Affairs Larry Pentzer, approximate 1,200 LU residential students make the transition and more of campus off-campus in the spring semester.

According to Associate General Manager Barbara Shelton, students should check every complex out because they all have something great to offer. "We are excited to show our product and help the students with off campus living," Shelton said. "Students at apartment communities of...

get more work done and to get off the hall," Pentzer said. "There is a lot more than I thought there was in Lynchburg and I thought it was very limited, but there is a lot more than I think most people know about."

Many of the Lynchburg apartment communities offer public transportation as a convenience to students and residents. "Apartments complexes such as WellnessBrook offer unique amenities such as a lazy river pool, tanning bed and car wash," Pentzer said.

According to WendtVillum Properties Manager Michael Tren, they expect to gain several students from being a part of the Liberty apartment fair. For more information contact Liberty’s Office of Community Affairs email communities@liberty or visit them online at libertyscommunities.com.

MICHAELS is a feature writer.

April 5 and 7 Student Development Training

The training will take place in DeMoss 101 on Tuesday, April 5 and Thursday, April 7 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The course is open to students and faculty in entry level and mid-level management positions. Participants will be taught on holistic student development and will study student development theories and practices, program planning, legal issues in student affairs and emerging trends of student development. Each participant will receive one continuing education unit (CEU) credit from Liberty, a certificate of completion and a folder with notes and PowerPoint slides printed.

Those who have already registered will need to bring the $60 payment to the beginning of the training. If you have not yet registered, contact the Office of Student Conduct for future training dates.

For more information, contact The Office of Student Conduct at 434-592-2320 or studentconduct@liberty.edu.

April 8-9 The Awakening - Raising Our Voices

The Freedom Federation will be sponsoring the second annual Student Activities Conference. The conference will be held at Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) and the Liberty University School of Law. The event will kick off Friday at 10 a.m. with Convocation. Among the speakers who have been invited to the event are Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Although the event is free, tickets are required and can be found at Tickets.com. For more information or to register, visit theawakening2011.com or call 877-710-1776.

April 9 LU Praise Auditions

LU Praise will hold auditions from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the 2011-2012 team. Those planning to audition should choose a black gospel selection to be sung a cappella. For audition locations and information, contact the Center for Worship at 434-592-2562.

April 15-16 Whitewater Rafting Trip

Student Activities is sponsoring a whitewater rafting trip in New River. The trip will depart from campus around 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. The total cost for the trip is $25. This includes transportation, lodging, rafting and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. For more information or to register, stop by the Student Activities Office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Wes Department is 434 p.m. on Friday, April 15. The bus will be returning to campus around 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. For more information or to register, visit their website at liberty.edu/activities or stop by the Student Activities Office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For a complete list of events, visit their website at liberty.edu/events. For more information, contact Student Activities at 434-592-3061 or studentactivities@liberty.edu.

April 16 Seabird in Concert

Student Activities will be hosting a free concert at the Tilley Student Center starting at 9 p.m. Seabird will be performing for the night. For more information, contact student activities at 434-592-3061 or studentactivities@liberty.edu.

April 16-17 Chill & Revive Conference

Chill & Revive Conference will be held on Saturday, April 16. For more information, contact the Counseling Center at 434-592-3540.

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HUMBLE START — The band spent its first official shows performing worship music in nursing homes during college. In 2001, the band moved to Nashville, Tenn., where their career took off. The band has performed worldwide, from college campuses in the U.S. to Muslim audiences in Morocco, according to co-founder Jason Germain.

Downhere returns to Liberty

Tiffany Edwards
trends2@liberty.edu

Students and visitors packed into the Vines Center Friday night for an evening of rock and worship with bands Downhere and Rush of Fools. Rush of Fools opened the evening with their signature contemporary Christian style, warming up the crowd for the headlining act, the Juno-award winning Canadian band Downhere.

People often ask if we chose our name because we moved down from Canada, which is totally not the case, or that we’re equated with Australia, and that’s not it either, co-founder Jason Germain said. “What Jesus was down here, he came as a servant, he was interested in the person who was right in front of him. He wasn’t interested in popularity games.”

German and lead vocalist Mark Merlot met in their freshman year at Trinity Western College in British Columbia. German and Merlot wrote music together and spent their first official shows performing worship music in nursing homes, according to Germain. They eventually added bassist Glenn Lavender and drummer Jeremy Thiessen, completing their band.

I think (God) can use anyone, no matter their giftedness or their brokenness.
— Jason Germain

The band was named after a song Merlot wrote in memory of a friend from college who died in a tragic accident. Shortly after his memorial service, Mark sat down at the piano and wrote a song called Downhere. The song basically expressed the question that we all wrestle with — ’Why do bad things happen to good people?’” Germain said.

Friday was downhere’s second time performing at Liberty — its first concert was in January 2007. Despite travelling the world and changing thousands of lives, the band still holds on to the faith that brought them together. "I feel very unqualified to have my voice on the airwaves, but at the end of the day, God is good, and he’s given me a voice for a reason," Germain said. "Despite my failures, despite my incapacities, somehow he still uses me. I think (God) can use anyone, no matter their giftedness or their brokenness."

For more information about downhere, visit their official website at downhere.com.

Edwards is the feature editor.
April 5, 2011

FEATURE

Edible Arrangements fashions fresh, tasty bouquets

JONATHAN PARKER

April 5, 2011

Edible Arrangements fashions fresh, tasty bouquets

JONATHAN PARKER

Jparker17@llberty.edu

Ann Major carefully mixes chocolate-dipped pineapple hearts with plump strawberries, grapes and thick orange slices into a tasty bouquet.

"It's something different," Major, who manages Edible Arrangements in Wyndhurst, said. "It makes fruit enjoyable.

The bouquet reveals a mix of ingenuity and patience, each piece of fruit skillfully cut and arranged. Ailie McCormick dips long banana slices in milk chocolate to finish off the arrangement, cooling the fruit in a freezer for seven minutes.

"I think it’s fun," McCormick said. "People don’t expect to see someone at their doorstep with different kinds of fruit dipped in chocolate," McCormick, fond of the chocolate dipped oranges, enjoys sampling the tasty fruit.

"It’s fun and different as a gift idea," McCormick said.

Major said Edible Arrangements, a chain with more than 1,000 stores worldwide, opened in Wyndhurst three years ago. The business, owned by Michael Anich, continues to expand. Employees handcrafted 400 fruit arrangements for Valentine’s Day.

The brightly colored fruit arrangements are comparable in cost to flower bouquets.

On busy days, five or six employees hand-cut each piece of fruit in a large kitchen, arranging the sweet smelling baskets according to specific styles. During holidays, 10 to 15 people share the heavy workload. The company offers a variety of arrangements, depending on fruit favorites and cost. Typical baskets range from $35 to $55.

"Each year, it picks up," Major said of sales.

The arrangements are given a unique name and ingredients. The "Berry Chocolate Bouquet," for example, includes pineapple hearts, chocolate dipped strawberries, fresh strawberries, pineapple daisies and grapes. Major, who has worked at the store since it opened, said each arrangement takes 15 to 20 minutes to make after cutting fruit.

"It’s fun," Major said. "I actually worked at the one in Newport News for six months."

The business plows through fruit quickly, using 2,000 strawberries a week. Major, who prefers chocolate and peanut butter-dipped bananas, said employees use special molds and cutters to shape the fruit.

Edible Arrangements recently began selling "pineapple pops," large chunks of the sweet fruit cut into bunny, star, or heart shapes and dipped in chocolate. "Everything gets done here," Major said. "We make the product."

Major expects "chocolate bark," pieces of solid chocolate sprinkled with almonds or white chocolate drizzle, to become a popular item.

Our arrangements are neutral," Major said. "You can make it a birthday or a get well soon." Major said the company delivers many orders to Liberty and other Lynchburg colleges.

"We’re always at Liberty," Major said. "Adding arrangements to small gifts for college students. That’s where a lot of our sales come from.

The company delivers to Appomattox, Bedford, Raxburg, Madison, Heights, Fortuna, Amherst and Albemarle for $15. Lynchburg delivery costs $12.

"I like just seeing the expressions and making their day," Major said.

"That’s what makes me come to work every day.

Located at 1627 Enterprise Drive in Wyndhurst, Edible Arrangements is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The company offers arrangements to suit any occasion, mixing balloons, cards and teddy bears with orders.

"Everything goes done here," Major said. 

"We make the product."

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Open House

Saturday, April 16

2-4 p.m.

Liberty Mountain Conference Center

3790 Candlers Mountain Road

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP at www.liberty.edu/conference/openhouse.

Join us as we unveil Lynchburg’s newest conference center.

40

1971 - 2011
Springtime sweetens fashion show

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"That's spring," said Jared Delello, president of the Student Veteran Group. "We were hoping for close to $3,000 for the ministry (Freedom 4/24)." Howard said, "I think we probably met it." Delello said it was a "fantastic event," and that the group was planning a "steak dinner for local veterans." The dinner has been tentatively set for April 15. For more information about the Freedom 4/24 ministry, visit freedom424.org.

Student veterans raise support for local soldiers

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Student veterans raise support for local soldiers

Students studying to serve March 29 and 30 may have noticed a pair of unifumed Marines standing in the back hallway of DeMoss Hall by a table adorned with nothing but a few pairs of combat boots. The men were raising money for an outreach event for local veterans.

The event was organized by the Student Veteran Group, which said it was "a way to come together as a community and help our brothers and sisters." The group has invited one of the former Marine commandos to speak, who will be able to share his story in person.

One of the men was Cpl. Jared Delello, president of the Student Veteran Group. He said the group was planning a "steak dinner for local veterans." The dinner has been tentatively set for April 15. For more information about the Freedom 4/24 ministry, visit freedom424.org.

JENNINGS is the feature writer.

OH FOR A QUEEN — The spring 2011 FACS fashion show featured student-created designs inspired by Marie Antoinette's extreme sense of style.

FIT FOR A QUEEN — The spring 2011 FACS fashion show featured student-created designs inspired by Marie Antoinette's extreme sense of style.