Liberty responds to student concerns

ASHLEY BOLLINGER
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Liberty University has responded to some of the recent concerns and questions from students and faculty about the changes in the administration's decisions, particularly regarding cutbacks.

However, Dr. Ronald Godwin, Liberty University's Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, addressed these concerns.

"We have not cut or are going to cut some courses that are not necessary to complete degrees," Godwin said. "Courses that have suffered from chemically low enrollment over the past three years."

Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. also reassured students and faculty about the university's financial health.

"We are in good financial standing. I was unprepared for that at first, but I now know that we are in good financial standing," Falwell said.

Despite these reassurances, some students and faculty have expressed concerns about the future of Liberty University, including potential cutbacks and changes in course offerings.

"Our administration has been so focused on growth that they have not taken the time to listen to what the students and faculty want," one student said.

The university's administration has promised to listen to student and faculty feedback and to make changes based on that feedback.

"We are listening and we will make changes based on the feedback we receive," Falwell said.

As university improvements continue to unfold, changes in academics have caused some students such as current junior and Liberty Student Life Vice President Ashley Bollinger comfort.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the people of Liberty University," Bollinger said.

"I am sure that Liberty has become the national leader among nonprofit universities in online education," Falwell said. "Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. is proud to lead Liberty University and make it the nation's leader in online education."

However, some students and faculty have expressed concern about the cuts and changes that have been made.

"I don't think anyone can rejoice when they see their tuition going up,?" one faculty member said.

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Distracted driving legislation falls flat in General Assembly

By MARY SEILKOP

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned Tuesday without passing a bill to crack down on drivers who talk or text on their cellphones. Lawmakers had been considering several proposals to make cellphone use illegal while driving, but none passed the House or Senate before adjournment.

By BILL OVERHULTZ

At least 1,760 people were killed and another 550,000 were injured in 2009 in crashes involving drivers who were using their cellphones. That’s why state and local lawmakers have pushed for years to pass laws that would ban cellphone use by drivers.

Senior class gives back
Bus stop shelters added around campus

By ALISSA HINCKLE

The Senior Class Project has announced its 2011 project: ten bus stop shelters, which will be added around campus.

‘I have always wanted to do something to benefit students. Liberty is a great school for me and I want to give back to the students,’ said Krautter.

Bus stop shelters to benefit students

By ALISSA HINCKLE

Krautter said that the shelters will not only make students feel safer in the worst of the weather, but will also make the campus look better.

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Liberty University is growing, Falwell said, because it takes a substantial operation to cut down on distracted driving.

Although several bills have been proposed, none of them have made it out of the committees. Virginia lawmakers pro-
pelled several distracted driv-
ing bills during the legislative session and none of them succeeded.

The 2011 bills would have been much stricter on distracted drivers, including making it illegal to call on a cell phone while driving or driving a primary offense. This police agencies would have a pull over a driver for a distracting device.

Newly passed Senate Bill 454, which would have taken effect by Jan. 1, 2012, was one of the bills that did not pass. Drivers who are caught texting or using a cellphone while driving face a $50 fine. The Senate bill, which would have cost around $60,000 to install, also included a provision that would require all shelters to cost around $40

Students living downtown have been more than 2,200 visitors to the CFAW Spring Concert at Snowflex on April 31 was the biggest weekend’s CFAW has been growing at liberty University since its inception in 2003, according to Krautter.

Aurora Colo., whether the state would be able to hold a bond issue for the project.

“After each CFAW we’ll de- tend the positive and negative of each event. What worked? What didn’t work? How do we move forward and keep going?” Krautter said.

The results are a design featu-
ring the pillars and brick that characterize much of Liberty’s architecture and is kind of’ Alumni Relations Office as brought up last fall.

The website for the project is go online at liberty.edu/.

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The continued improvement of the university lies on the decisions made at the critical point that the university is currently approaching, according to Shackleton.

For smaller classes that are only 20 or so, Shackleton said. "I think it will be better to have those classes increase in student number because then students can get out of the way so that the faculty members, degree programs or minors can be cut in the midst of the changes they go through the year." Shackleton explained.

"No faculty members are being terminated or the content of the courses will now only be taught once a year," Shackleton said. "It will make for a more flexible academic calendar." The only concern that the university has in real need for all of the professors who were reassigned, Shackleton said.

Godwin and Shackleton agree that the changes the university is seeing are to benefit both the current and future student population.

"There is no student question which we desire to leave unanswered, no concern we wish to treat as trivial," Godwin said. "'There will be many more things to know than we have in mind, and the job preparing their four-year plan," Godwin said. "There is an abundance of things that we do not know, but we have a student population and the future student population that want to know all the details that we can provide." Godwin said. "There will be no student left behind!"

"As we bring the first 40 years to a close, and the Chancellor looks to new, it was our intent and assignment that we bring academic excellence to the university in new, Godwin said. "With the resources we might be able to make the changes we need to make our academic programs and enhance existing programs so that the university's potential for the next 40 years." For more information about the university's future plans, the university's website at www.EducationLiberty.com will provide more details.

"BOLLINGER" is the news editor.

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Multiple disasters in Japan: need multiple responses in aid

ANDREW GULA
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Now that we have passed the third week, scientists around the world are wondering how to help the Japanese deal with their still-unresolved environmental crisis. Why, the earthquake struck.

In fact, the resulting tsunami was even more.

But after a malfunction at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant only a two-hour drive north of Tokyo, Japan has had a far more deadly dilemma to deal with.

Radiation is a deadly thing and often causes an enormous area of land. While many people worldwide have turned to Japan for help, the problem is that there really was no way for the Fukushima Daiichi plant workers to have set up any safeguards than what was already in place.

"It is too difficult to prepare for every possibility. Reports indicated that the reactor was designed to shut down automatically if there was an earthquake. There also had diesel generators to keep pumping water to cool the reactor in a worst-case scenario. So they were prepared for some emergencies. The problem was caused by a failure of the generators. There is a limit to how many backup systems are realizable to put in place," Dr. David DeWitt, Chair of Liberty's Biology/Chemistry Department, said.

So now that the blame has been put aside, we ought to turn our thoughts toward what we can do from here, rather than what could or should have been done to avoid this catastrophe.

The Fukushima reactor meltdown is without a doubt, the second-largest nuclear casualty to be dealt with by the Japanese people in the last hundred years and one of the worst nuclear accidents and worst natural and man-made disasters on their hands from the previous natural disaster, the Japanese government needs help dealing with the numerous problems on its plate.

With that said, it falls to the various aid providing organizations to step into the plate and provide help to struggling neighbors across the Pacific.

"The world is shocked and saddened by the images coming out of Japan with thousands and thousands more people asked to evacuate - to be very difficult time," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a Reuters.com article.

"Allegedly, this is going to continue for the next three to four months," said U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

"Due to the vastness of the ocean, however, the government has been told to keep 12 miles of the plant as the local sea life may be contaminated according to CNN article. Workers struggle to contain radioactive water at nuclear plant," on March 28.

"It is likely that, at a minimum, restrictions on the consumption of the local fish will be enacted. Thailand's FDA has been testing Japanese imports to ensure they are not contaminated. Due to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant being on the brink of collapse, a group of hundred employees are working day and night to stop the leaking and save the plant, according to FOX News. An inspector from Japan's Nuclear Safety Agency, Kenji Tokita, investigated the conditions of the plant on March 28. "They cut only two meals each day — a carefully nutrition balanced diet of 30 crackers and vegetable juice for dinner, a ready-to-eat meat or something out of a can," reporters Lourdes Lis and Francis Rios told in a CNN article.

But more surprising was the readiness of World Vision, an Evangelical Christian organization, and the incredible witness that they have been basin employees and volunteers alike. In fact, they have been reaching out to us for help. Our offices in Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are on alert and staff in coastal areas have been advised. Greg Smith, World Vision humanitarian and emergency affairs director for the Asia-Pacific region, said on the World Vision website just minutes after the initial earthquake. "We've also alerted our Global Rapid Response Team and have put team members on standby for possible deployment to affected area. This could be a very serious disaster in multiple countries and our staff is prepared to respond.

Besides the few hour lead time, there are likely a dozen other organizations that, with a simple text, you can donate to helping relief efforts by the earthquake, tsunami, and radiation problem in Japan. Doctors Without Borders, GlobalGiving, and even Google have been spreading a strong effort to help those in Japan. There are just a handful of ways in which our international community has stepped up to help, and few which have also been working to spread the Gospel in the disaster area.

GULA is an opinion writer.

Nuclear technology: Risky Business

AMY ROTALL
arym@gmail.com

High-risk energy with a high payoff. But is it worth it?

The earthquake and tsunami acted as the key to unlocking the doors from its cage as now the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant is releasing radioactive activity in the surrounding areas.

Despite the house, efforts of technicans and engineers working to control a nuclear melt at the quake damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, radioactive material is still seeping into the surrounding areas.

Specifically, plaintiffs have been forced to face the ever surrounding the crippled nuclear plant according to The Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco).

Although the plant's owners claim that the plutonium intended for use as medical health risk, authorities have discovered that the top tier weapons and the surrounding area are highly contaminated with radium.

They have enforced bans on the consumption of vegetables grown in the area and advised residents to prevent children from playing in the surrounding area.

So now that the blame has been put aside, we ought to turn our thoughts toward what we can do from here, rather than what could or should have been done to avoid this catastrophe.

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GULA is an opinion writer.
Constitutional protocol: what is it good for?

KATIE BELL
kbell@liberty.edu

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. Pro-democracy protests 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’s death” 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 not have a good deal 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 for a vote. The power to declare war was one that was explicitly given to Congress. Once again, President Obama completely bypassed the Constitution in efforts to follow his own agenda.

“The absolute truth is that the United States, for many decades, has no consistent policy for militarily intervening in foreign affairs. Not since World War II has such a policy to militarily intervening in foreign affairs been adopted. The United States’ involvement in Libya has many Liberty students talking. America should straighten its own problems out before straightening out the problems of other nations,” Kaleb Ramey said.

It seems as though the United States is doing a good deed by supporting the oppressed Libyans against a tireless dictator, however proper procedure was not followed.

It’s not just in the military sector that things have turned over control to others.” Green said.

Gaddafi is the opinion editor.
According to Liberty University Military Affairs, there are more than 230 student veterans studying on campus and another 1,200 online. Some of them may have been trained by Pfc. Jason Irizarry.

In 1999, Irizarry, a Florida native, joined the US Army for three years at the 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 tank battalions with regular Army tanks that cycle through to train 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 were ‘four tanks, the OPFOR would have six’ that way the OPFOR would have more. Irizarry said, ‘When you do combat for training, you train as tough as possible, Irizarry loved it. It’s basically a huge laser tag game.

‘Krasnovian’ troops from the fictional country of Krasnovia and use US military vehicles. "Krasnovian" troops use Russian tactics ‘plus one’. After the events of September 11, 2001, Irizarry 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. He was struck by how much Falwell cared for people.

‘He was an amazing individual,’ Irizarry said. ‘I keep for the green eyes (his) life, (his) life, (his) life,’ He is not entirely sure what to do when he graduates, but he wants it to involve acting and interacting with people.

‘I love people, and I love to express myself different ways,’ Irizarry said. ‘Bring on stage or on screen is just a great way to do it.’

After moving to Virginia, Irizarry enrolled at Liberty in the spring of 2007. He met the late Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr. in February 2008 when he had to leave the Army because of injuries. 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. He was struck by how much Falwell cared for people.

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ADAMS is the copy editor.
While the rest of campus was sound asleep, three concerned young ladies told us they were striving to follow God, and were driving to Washington, D.C. to lobby our Congressmen in D.C. to decrease the budget and to pass the Pledge Amendment (PA) which would strip Planned Parenthood of funding that Congress allocates to Planned Parenthood. The House of Representatives passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to decrease the budget and it passed without the Pledge Amendment or any pro-life riders that prohibit abortion funding, "Haas, President of Liberty’s chapter of Concerned Women for America (CWA) made the three and a half hour trek to Washington, D.C. This was their second lobbying trip to D.C. Fifteen students participated in the first trip during the March For Life weekend. The group left at 5 a.m. and returned at 8 p.m. until after midnight. They left from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"We were lobbying to get the Senate on board with cutting back on federal spending. A significant part 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 Pledge Amendment or any pro-life riders that prohibit abortion funding," Haas, President and Liberty’s Chapter of CWA said.

The trio of majority leader Harry Reid will crush the CR in the Senate. Planned Parenthood is a $1 billion organization that received $660 million annually from the federal government and manages to make $85 million profit. There are more than 4,500 Title X health care clinics for women under Planned Parenthood. The 4,500 are Planned Parenthood facilities. Planned parenthood is the number one abortion provider in America. There are primarily responsible for guiding the nation’s future as well as the future of my country, but has such a history of fraud," said one of the participants. "Our elected representatives may seem so distant and difficult to reach with our voices, however, I would encourage everyone to take a lobbying trip so that they can utilize 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." Biggs is the Vice President of Liberty’s chapter of CWA. Biggs 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," Biggs said. "The idea of lobbying Congressmen was a little daunting at first, but CWA provides training for leaders who go to Washington for their first time. CWA provides teams for leaders who have not been to Washington before. For the trip of 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 God’s way, you’re going to care about these issues," Haas said. The next lobbying trip is set for the end of May. If you are interested in participating, please contact Amanda Haas at amhaas@liberty.edu.
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.

"There needed to be changes in the districts because the population has basically shifted North to the Washington, DC area," Newman said. "Our area needed to lose a portion of a state senate (seat), but not too much. My district actually was over populated I would have had to shed people. We could have very easily expanded Southwest and Central Virginia a lot and solved that problem without losing another seat at all."

However the Howell plan redistricts 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 race against their own party to secure a senate seat.

"They decided not only to redistrict, and not only partisan re-district you can kind of expect that out of a party — they're just taking it to absolute extremes," Newman said. "They obviously did it to try and retain control, and we go that." The Democratic redistricting plan pushes the current districts to the North, stretching the boundaries and creating seemingly awkward new districts to help maintain control of the state, Newman said. The new districts significantly impacted four Republican senators, including Bill Lackey (R-20), Sen. Ralph Smith (R-22) and Sen Stephen Newman (R-23).

When you get to the details of who in the Republican Party they went after, they went after the center counties," Newman said. "There are nine really five to six of the true conservative counties every single one of the conservatves they tried to get or they got. So this is a huge concession on the part of the Republicans." Newman district now includes 24 percent of Smith's current district, stripping Smith of his constituents. He will maintain 17 percent of his current district.

"Sen. Ralph Smith, who they have combined with, is one of the most reliable men in the legislation," Newman said. "He is a good legislator. He is very solid friend. Truly hate 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 wanted to get Sen. Mark D. Ob­ shanek (R-26), and they literally tried every- thing they could," Newman said. "They admired early on that they couldn't do it because they would put their members in dan- ger, and that's why we were concerned about them, although they wanted him really.

"Their desire is to make sure that they have a control in the Virginia Senate for Demo­ crats. The way they did it, did exactly trying to take out and eliminate as many conserva­ tives within the Republican party as they possibly could.

The new district lines will force some com­ constituents to travel several hours, forcing them to drive past other state senators, in order to meet with their own senator.

"Basically, you will have people who will wake up and need to see their state senators, and they will have to drive halfway across the state to visit with him," Newman said. "It will be very, very long on the way many other state senators along the way while get­ ting to his state senator."

"That's really a pretty cruel thing in a dem­ ocracy to do to people. Terrible."

In addition to longer travel distances, the new plan incurs some other issues such as problems with Section V of the Equal Pro­ tection Clause which deals mainly with the minority vote.

"I foresee that they have diluted 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 15 percent minority to be pre­ served. In some of those cases, they have reduced them down to 4 percent. In other states, that's not accepted under the Department of Justice.

The Howell Plan may also violate rules of deviation, pushing the limits of legality, according to Cox v. Laton, when a similar situation occurred and the Supreme Court ruled that the actions violate the one man, one vote principle of the Equal Protection Clause.

"You needed to be somewhere close to a half of a percent of deviation," Newman said. "The senate democrats have chosen 2 percent, or four times what the deviation is required.

The new district plan also splits some communities.

"I think that this plan is not only the most partisan plan we've seen, it is a plan that at­ tempts to smash the communities of interest in a way that we've not seen in Virginia," Ne­ man said.

One of the communities affected by the new district boundaries is Liberty University, in Campbell County, who no longer part of the 2nd District.

"For people that live right over the hill in Campbell County — or part of Lib­ erty University's campus in Campbell County when they start looking for their state sena­ tor, they will need to look to the North Carolina border," Newman said. 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 tend to have as much possible, one to two representatives," Newman said. "None of them are non-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 district has changed drastically he still maintains a positive atti­ tude towards the future.

"Bring a representative in the Senate of Virginia is a fight, one of the highest hon­ ors that can be given to an individual," New­ man said. "I'm very upbeat and positive. I'm upbeat about Ralph. I'm upbeat about the domino I'm upbeat about the prospect of meeting new people in Craig County where I don't have a lot of friends now. I'm looking forward to developing whole new friend­ ships in the Roanoke area. It's great a oppor­ tunity.

# 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.

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RUN LIKE THE WIND— Competitors at the Liberty Collegiate Invitational meet Friday and Saturday ran against other schools as well as a stalwart wind. Winds gusted up to 20 mph Saturday, making athletes work even harder for their times. Liberty won seven events during the weekend.

GABRIEL FOWLER
gfowler2@liberty.edu

While wind speeds from the northwest at 11 mph, gusting to 20 mph, hundreds of fans were seated in the stands wrapped in coats and blankets. The enticement of close races, long throws and high jumps however, were enough to get them cheering, clapping hol­tering. This is our biggest turnout,” head coach Brant Tolboum said. The meet lasted from the morning through the late evening with more than 20 events to watch.

Son of people were walking running, pointing and stretching on the men's field of the Mathews-Hopewell Track Complex in preparation of individual events. "This wind is really going to be a factor," Tolboum 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 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.

Tolsma said, "I'm just 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 speeds." Tolboum said, "This long distance though, well, they will run it, but it's not going to be pretty." In the women's pole vault Liberty placed second with sophomore Shelly Parker setting 13.99m, ninth out of twenty-six of the first place finisher freshman Candace Crawford at Ap­palachian State University.

In the women's long jump senior Veronica Day of Elon University placed first with a jump of 5.72m, while Edy Nakam of UVa and Brecce Harvey of Appalachian St. fought for second place, separated by only a tenth of a second.

"I'm also excited to see how Kolby does in the pole vault," Tolboum said. "It could be a very good year than is in a cross-wind."

Temperatures now slightly throughout the day, giving players and fans a brief break of sun. However, with winds still blustering, events like the pole vault were moved indoors.

Kolby Shepherd of Elon placed first with an easy win over the competition. His jump was 5.20m, while the second place finisher was his own team's Bianca Harvey of Appalachian St. fought for an easy win over the competition. His jump was 5.20m, while the second place finisher was second with freshman Shelly Parker setting 13.99m, ninth out of twenty-six of the first place finisher freshman Candace Crawford at Appalachian State University.

The Flames' last competition was at the Lar­garde Golf Course at Elon University placing first with a score of 212 led by freshman Shelly Parker. He managed a par of 54, No. 2. The Flames will hit the course again on April 2 in the Rodeo Course Challenge in the Southland Conference and the 2010-2011 season

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Southside News

Getting the Distance

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RECLASSIFIED — Due to Title IX regulations, wrestling will be reclassified as a club sport, starting in the fall. Current wrestlers will be able to keep their scholarships until the conclusion of their time at Liberty.

"By doing this, we're meeting Title IX, but we have to add the ones that come up," Barber said. "So far, that's adding sports every two or three years. It's an endless kind of thing, and that translates into a lot of money."

For the past three years, Liberty has met Title IX requirements through adding sports based on interest, as well as historically adding programs for the underrepresented sex.

"By doing this, we're meeting Title IX, but we have to add the ones that come up," Barber said. "So far, that's adding sports every two or three years. It's an endless kind of thing, and that translates into a lot of money."

After carefully reviewing the University's current methods of fulfilling Title IX, Barber and the University decided that working toward proportionality was the best choice for Liberty.

"We chose to move toward proportionality because we didn't want to have to keep adding sports that would have cost the University an unbelievable amount of money," Barber said. "And to do that properly, we would have to get 28 sports (total), we would have to keep them all to keep the 52-to-48 proportionality." Because of the more toward proportionality, Liberty needs to remove 75 male athletes from the program. According to Barber, two ways of doing this are to either drop a sport with a larger roster number or to cut players from each of Liberty's 10 men's programs.

Liberty has five men's programs with large roster numbers, which are football, soccer, track and field and wrestling. In order to begin the move toward removing 75 male athletes, the athletic program decided to rededicate the wrestling program to a club sport. Wrestling had 39 male athletes on its roster.

"We chose wrestling because they are not in the Big South conference," Barber said. "That's really the only thing that separated them from any of the other big men's sports.

Wrestling was not in the Big South conference because the sport was not offered as a part of the conference competition. Liberty attempted to add wrestling to the Big South a few years ago, but the interest among Big South schools was not there.

Barber said that the and the University have received criticism for rededicating the program, but as a Christian institution, the university felt compelled to peacefully comply with authority.

"People have said to us, 'Why didn't you fight Title IX?'" Barber said. "Well, this is a federal law and Romans 13:1 says to submit to government authority.

Barber said that scholarships will be fulfilled for the remainder of each wrestler's time at Liberty, and that the athletes can transfer and be immediately eligible to compete. Wrestling will begin competition in club sports in the fall.

On Thursday, a community forum dedicated to Liberty Athletics, Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. addressed concerns from fans and also expressed his remorse.

"I am heartbroken about the impact this decision will have on the team members and so many others," Falwell said.

Barber expressed his sincere apologies to everyone affected by the rededication of wrestling.

"It's been an unpleasant situation for all of us involved," Barber said. "We understand that it's been very disappointing. Our heart goes out to them, and we pray for them everyday. The last day I live, I'll still feel bad.

The University hopes to be fulfilling proportionality in the next three to five years.

* MARVEL is the sports editor.
Baseball: America just passing the time

NATE BROWN
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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

In steets they forget to put the Wiffleball atop the church and children, just to pass the time before the Red Sox game. Perfect.

It is something they forget to put in the American dream, but is just as much a part of it as the Cherry and Woodward.

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses and I’ll give them a baseball game on a spring Sunday with your friends.

Few know that America’s pastime actually was America’s patron saint before it even received the moniker designating it as such.

Much of baseball’s beginnings are lost in legends and rumors. But in 1846, Alexander Cartwright formalized a list of rules that a group of small town teams united under.

The first recorded baseball game under these rules took place at the Elysian fields in New Jersey between Cartwright’s Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York City and the New York Baseball Club.

In 1857, delegates from 25 teams organized a charter and more detailed rules and formed the National Association of Base Ball Players.

The Civil War broke out soon after, but baseball still thrived — as a pastime.

In Union camps, baseball games were played between units as a way to pass the time between marches. The sport grew among Union soldiers and by the end of the war, baseball was a largely participated sport.

In 1869 the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first strictly professional baseball team and supported itself by charging admission to its games.

Since then, America and baseball have been as close as, well, America and baseball. Woodrow Wilson threw the first pitch of the World Series in 1910.

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 April and April duo; women who are affected by pediatric brain tumors.

The Lady Flames ended last season as the 16th overall with 1,154 points. His father Eric played for the New York Yankees. Gordon has also been playing for the Flames. Gordon, Liberty’s 26th all-time scorer, 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, 76.2 percent and 33.7 percent, respectively. He ends his Liberty Flames career with 832 points, 16th overall with 1,154 points.

Sure. Let’s play ball.

Perfect.
Lady Flames take rough losses, gain experience

KATHERINE LACAZE
kelastics@liberty.edu

It was aggression, along with a fast-paced and skilled offense, that helped the Hokies achieve an 18-2 victory over the Lady Flames Tuesday evening, March 29 at Osborne Stadium. "They're really aggressive," a watching Flames fan said. She was referring to the players from the Virginia Tech ladies' lacrosse team, which accumulated a total of 22 fouls in the week's game. "Virginia Tech is always a good team, so we knew going into this that it was going to be a really good game for us to see a higher level of competition," head coach Reagan Denham said. "We talked a lot about maintaining possession on attack, which we weren't able to do (that evening)."

Freshman goalkeeper Kristen Masullo said having 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. "That team is very, very, very quick; pretty tall (and) they had a lot of ball movement," team captain Chloe McIntosh said.

According to McIntosh, the Lady Flames offense was not nearly prepared enough in the first half for what the Hokies offensive 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 their 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 at halftime of the team persistently aggressive offense. Masullo said that she hoped the Lady Flames knew how to learn from the experience and match what the Hokies brought to the field.

"Not the fouls," Masullo said. "But the aggression and the hunger." According to Denham, Tuesday's game gave the Lady Flames a chance to experience a lot of the same strategy that it faced going against Jacksonville Friday and also against Florida State in the season. She said that both of those teams run a very similar offense and both are conference games. "We're feeling a little bit more prepared on what we're going to see," Denham said.

The Lady Flames suffered their first conference loss to Jacksonville, 23-4. After Friday's game, the Lady Flames are 6-5 for the season and 2-1 in the National Lacrosse Conference. The teams next home game will be against Davidson on April 10 at 2 p.m.

LACAZE is a sports writer.
Students preview off-campus living

HEATHER MICHAELS
hmicheals@liberty.edu

April 5 and 7
Student Development Training
The training will take place on the first floor of SLAB 101 on Tuesday, April 5 and Thursday, April 7 from 3:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. The course is open to students and faculty in entry level and middle 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 slide printouts.

Those who have already registered will need to bring the $50 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 Awakening Conference. The conference will be held at Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) and the Liberty University School of Law. The event will kick off 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 877-190-1796.

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 more 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. Riders will depart at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15. The bus will be returning to campus around 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. The total cost for the trip is $55. 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.

W Va. Departure is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15. The bus will be returning to 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.

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April 16
Seabird in Concert
Seabird 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 434-592-3961 or studentactivities@liberty.edu.

U OF L
about

Students preview off-campus living

HEATHER MICHAELS
hmicheals@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, were encouraged to attend in hope of finding campus students looking for a place to live to become acquainted with. On- and off-campus students looking for a place to live were encouraged to attend in hope of finding a fit for an apartment community.

According to Senior Office Assistant Alice Edwards, the Commuter Affairs Apartment Apartment has been expanding in the past few years. "It provides students a chance to get a feel for off campus living," Edwards said. "They get to look at all different types of apartments the apartments offer for packages, so it kicks starts them for next year."

According to the Director of Commuter Affairs Larry Perry, approximately 1,200 to 1,400 residential students make the transition and more of campus in the spring semester. "We want students to check every complex out, because they all have something great to offer," Edwards said.

"We are excited to show our product and help the students with off campus living," Sholten said. "Students met apartment communities of the beginning of the training. If you have not yet registered, contact the Office of Student Conduct for future training dates.

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U OF L
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

TITANY EDWARDS
tredwards2@liberty.edu

Students and visitors packed into the Vine 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. "When 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."

Germain and lead vocalist, Marc Merlit, met in their freshman year at andole College in Saskatchewan. Germain and Merlit 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 Trauton, completing their band.

The band was named after a song Merlit 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 incapabilities, 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.
Edible Arrangements fashions fresh, tasty bouquets

JONATHAN PARKER

April 5, 2011

FEATURE

Liberty Champion/B7

Edible Arrangements fashions fresh, tasty bouquets

JONATHAN PARKER
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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.

Each arrangement is comparable in cost to flower bouquets.

"You're spending, let's say, $60 on flowers, and they last a week," Major said. "These last three days, but you can consume them. They are not being thrown away.

The arrangements are given a unique name and ingredients.

The "Berry Chocolate Bouquet," 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.

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

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The company offers a variety of arrangements, depending on fruit favorites and cost. Typical baskets range from $35 to $55.

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

SWEET SURPRISES — Edible Arrangements in Wyndhurst specializes in fruit-and-candy bouquets for gifts and special occasions.

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 handle 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.

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Major, who has worked at the store since it opened, said each arrangement takes 15 to 20 minutes to make after cutting fruit.

"I love it," 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. The pops are served on a stick.

"Everything gets done here," Major said. "We make the product. We just make them up out of the whole fruits."

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 other than gifts to college students. That's where a lot of our sales come from."

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

Major likes greeting customers with a fruit bouquet.

"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 5 p.m.

Orders can be placed by calling 434-518-6204 or online at ediblearrangements.com.

Parker is a news writer.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT

Open House

Saturday, April 16
2-4 p.m.

Liberty University Mountain Conference Center
3790 Candlers Mountain Road

Refreshments will be served.
R.S.V.P. at www.liberty.edu/enrollment/openhouse.

Join us as we unveil Lynchburg's newest conference center.
Students veterans raise support for local soldiers

OMAR ADAMS
omar@students.liberty.edu

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

One of the men was Cpl. Jared DeDion, president of the Student Veterans Group. He said the group was planning a steak dinner for local veterans that would be catered by Texas Roadhouse and would include veteran guest speakers and a live book on dealing with combat stress from a Christian perspective.

DeDion said it was a perspective that veterans do not get from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"While you're in (the military), you have a chaplain there, but when you get out, you really don't have anything spiritual able to help you with those problems through the government," DeDion said. "This dinner is a way to come at it a different way and show our appreciation in the most valuable way, I think."

The dinner has been scheduled for 6:30 April 15. For more information, visit veterans@liberty.edu.

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

SHELANNE JENNINGS
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Springtime sweetens fashion show

The spring 2011 FACS fashion show featured student-created designs inspired by Marie Antoinette’s extreme sense of style.

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Students veterans raise support for local soldiers

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