Administration approves three new campus projects

By Dolph Bell

Despite the present financial crisis, the administration is pushing ahead with three major campus-development projects for next fall: a new fiber-optic phone system, a new records computer and possibly a new exit/entrance to the campus, according to administrative sources.

The administration hopes to build a new exit/entrance onto LU by next fall, but how soon it will be built hinges on how much money, if any, the state will contribute to the half-a-million-dollar project, according to Vice President of Institutional Research and Planning Carl Schreiber.

Schreiber described plans for four ramps, two exits and two entrances, accessing Liberty from both sides of State Highway 224. "Going east or west on 224, you could exit or enter the campus without having to get on Candler's Mountain Road," he said.

New roads from 224 would connect with Liberty's present road system somewhere between the Liberty bell and the circle side of the dorms, Schreiber said.

"A lot of decisions have yet to be made, but we're hoping it might be possible as early as next fall," Schreiber said. "I think that this could be done for less than half-a-million dollars."

The State Highway Department recently mailed to Liberty in preliminary drawings of the project, which the administration has been pursuing through meetings with city and state officials for more than a year, Schreiber said.

President Guilermin, interviewed about budget cuts last week, said he thought the road project had been approved and that he didn't see recent austerity measures as affecting it.

If the four-ramp road project falls through, Schreiber said, an alternate project would be providing automatic gates for the rail crossing at an exit behind the baseball field where Liberty rarely uses now.

Schreiber said the alternate project could cost $80,000. "The railroad entrance/exit would be a help, but even that isn't the kind of major entrance/exit we need on this campus."

By choosing the site near 224, Liberty is keeping its eye on the future. "It makes good sense to have those exits and exits right in what will be the center of our campus in not too many years," Schreiber said.

One factor in making the decision for the project was the recent accidents at the entrance of Liberty and the daily congestion on Candler's Mountain Road which Schreiber called "an absolute mess."

Liberty wants to eventually build a major link from Route 79 under the railroad tracks to hook up with the exits planned for highway 224, Schreiber said. But the project remains in the future because of its estimated cost in excess of $3 million.

At&t plans campus phone installation

Also set for installation next fall is a new AT&T system 85 fiber-optic backbone, which will not only allow for a phone in every dorm room next year, but also for voice, data and video switching throughout campus, according to Schreiber.

The new system is part of the "transder plan" of the computerization of Liberty, Schreiber said. Video switching will be used for Liberty Broadcasting Network.

"We will literally be able one day to broadcast anything anywhere simultaneously because of this fiber-optic backbone. It will be fantastic," he said.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell said in chapel the phone system is expected to generate $500,000 a year.

Guilermin said the new system is especially cost-effective because Liberty doesn't have to put up any money up front.

Play to open this weekend

By Michele Stout and Deborah Wood

"It's a classical farce. People should come prepared to laugh and be entertained," Roger Miller, a Liberty University drama instructor and the director of the play "Charley's Aunt," said.

The play takes place on a patio outside of two Oxford College students' rooms in 1890. Charles and Jack, who are violently in love with the Misses Verdun and Spettigue, invite them for luncheon to meet Charley's wealthy aunt from Brazil ("where the nuts come from"). When the aunt cannot make the luncheon, the men persuade young Lord Babberly to dress as the aunt and act as chaperone. The girls fall for the fake aunt, while Jack's dad and Miss Spettigue's guardian try to court her.

In the midst of this the real aunt shows up and gets involved with the deceit. That's only the start of the hilarious complications.

"Charley's Aunt" was fun to rehearse. It's neat to see how humor and fun results from mix-up. The students involved in the play are excited about it. 'It's difficult to do comedy due to the timing element, but we are ready," Miller said.

The stage craft and production classes were involved in creating the sets and props and in working at the box office. Sharon Wheeler, a drama instructor, designed the costumes.

Becky Peterson is assistant director of the play, and Paul Oclling is the stage manager.

The play will be showing April 17-19 and 24-26 at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts building from 1-4 p.m. on Monday through Friday, or they can be purchased at the door.
Dear editor:

This letter refers to the recent article in The Liberty Champion entitled, “Punk: Administration, students debate growing ‘identity crisis’ issue.” I certainly hope the students who lived the punk lifestyle and lived through a majority of the moral slant and not a morally conservative slant in our student newspaper?

Please do not negate me to the level of a leftist because I bring up these points. A good job has been done to quiet the morally conservative slant and not a morally conservative slant in our student newspaper?

Editor's Note: The definition of punk used in the article was taken from Random House Dictionary of the English Language.

Editor:

Thank you for printing the story on Students Against Abortion in the March 19 issue. I didn't know what to expect when I attended the meeting March 20, and the other 30 people in the room probably didn't either. But, it turned out to be so good.

I bring my own seat to chapel

By Marsha Wilde

Walking is not a necessity to living for Liberty University sophomore Kim Westover.

About the only thing I cannot do is anything having to do with walking," she said with a smile.

Born in Houston in the mid-50s, she has spina bifida, a disease which effects the closure of the spine at birth and confines the victim to a wheelchair.

Doctors said she had a 50/50 chance of survival and could live only to the age of 18. But now she is busy proving them wrong.

The LU student is a member of the SGA activities council and can often be seen directing brother/sister dorm parties for Dorms 5 and 11.

At home in Atlanta Kim enjoys painting. Her favorite pieces are landscapes, and she has several works displayed at the Spring Arts Festival.

As an avid traveler she has visited every state except Alaska and has vacationed several times in Hawaii with her family.

It was on one of her trips to Lynchburg with her dad, Duke Westover, that she first met the Rev. Jerry Falwell. At that time Falwell wanted to build a church. Kim's dad, a construction company owner, later built

Kim Westover

tried only when she is sitting in a hot car and cannot get out to the fresh air.

She hopes to make life at Liberty more convenient for other students confined to wheelchairs. Among her interests are getting the heavy doors on campus replaced with automatic ones and securing more handicapped parking spaces.

She also has one more plan. She laughed, "My dream is to live in Hawaii and own a Volkswagen convertible to drive around the islands. I could be a beach bum very easily."

By Trish Stirsman

A Student Against Abortion

Do you have an opinion about what's happening at Liberty University?

Address letters to Jennifer Steele, Box 21598.

The Liberty Champion

Volume 3, Number 21

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Letters to the Editor
President’s Forum: Guillermin sends message to all returning students

Please complete the registration information released Friday, April 11, as soon as possible. This is your first step in assisting the university to prepare your fall semester’s class schedule. This information is needed by MAY 1.

Usually this column is used for a Question/Answer between the students and the President; however, today this column is to send an important message to the student body. Your attention to this message will be appreciated and is important to you.

A. Pierre Guillermin

Options

Nursing program’s fate still up in air

By Tony Virostko

Although no official decision has yet been reached, the resignation of Dr. Eleanor Trefge, director of nursing, and the cutbacks in the university budget may bring an end to the Liberty University nursing program.

Dr. Glenn H. Sumrall, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said that the university has three options.

The first is to enlarge the bachelor of science in nursing, making it into a complete four-year generic program in which a freshman could come to Liberty and receive four years of nursing training.

However, because of the increase in the nursing program and the recent university cutbacks, Sumrall said that an increase wouldn't be likely. "Nursing is always more expensive than other programs because of the specialty areas."

The nursing director agreed, saying it takes a lot of time and money to build a program because of the curriculum and smaller class sizes.

Sumrall also said that nursing requires a smaller student to faculty ratio than other courses because of the time required to teach the specialized courses. But besides the cost, "the pieces never fell into place," he said.

The second option open to the school is to do nothing at all with the nursing program, letting it die a natural death.

The final option is to continue the program as it is without making any changes. This means that potential BSN students must already be registered nurses before coming to Liberty.

The nursing program was denied accreditation on Nov. 28, 1984, when it went before the National League of Nursing, an association which accredits participating programs.

Three other schools also went with Liberty in 1984, but all four were denied accreditation by the NLN.

Sumrall said that courses will be offered next year for students scheduled to graduate, but he explained that no additional students will be accepted into the nursing program.

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Richardson to assume baseball post
By Steve Leer

After 13 years of coaching Liberty University baseball, Alabama-bred Al Worthington is passing the torch on to a Yankee—an ex-New York Yankee, that is.

Worthington, also the LU Athletic Director, announced last Wednesday that former Yankee star second baseman Bobby Richardson will succeed him as only the second Flames baseball coach, effective July 1.

The LU skipper, who has guided Liberty to a 531-187-1 record, said he made the decision to step down as baseball coach to devote all his time to athletic directing.

"This job (as athletic director) is time-consuming," Worthington said. "I can't do this and baseball both."

"I feel the combination of both jobs doesn't allow me the time to be the type of baseball coach I need to be," he added. "An athletic director at a college has many problems and for some reason I like these problems better."

Worthington said he started formulating his decision about a year ago. He pointed out that he went to the University of South Carolina and Coastal A. Pierre Guillermin last spring and discussed leaving the head baseball coaching post with them.

Richardson, a long-time friend of Worthington and Falwell, is the current baseball coach and associate athletic director at Coastal Carolina College.

Richardson formerly coached the University of South Carolina baseball team, leading the Gamecocks in 1975 to a 51-6 record and a second-place finish in the College World Series.

Worthington believes Richardson’s arrival at LU will only improve Flames baseball.

"He is a very knowledgeable baseball man and will do the job here he has done at South Carolina and Coastal Carolina. I look forward to working with him."

In 12 years as a New York Yankee, Richardson batted .266. He played in seven World Series (winning four), was part of nine pennant winners and played in seven All Star games. He also received four Gold Gloves.

Richardson holds World Series records for runs batted in and home runs. He was the MVP of the 1960 World Series.

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Division 1 push nixes softball

By Marsha Wilde

This season will be the last for the Lady Flames softball team as the school pushes toward Division 1 status in 1988, according to Coach Mike Goad.

"Athletes wanted to go in (to Division 1) as a whole," he said.

He explained that few Southern Conference teams have softball programs. Within Virginia, only the University of Virginia and George Mason University have them.

Thus, for the team to travel, it would be forced to play on the club level, which is very competitive as well as costly due to travel expenses.

Furthermore, tougher recruiting and construction of a field would be necessary. "You are really cutting your own throat," Goad stated.

Athletic Director Al Worthington explained that the decision to discontinue the team was made before the season began and had no relation to recent budget cutbacks throughout the ministry. "Why keep paying for something you are going to cut any-way?" he asked.

Goad learned of the decision Feb. 14 and said his first concern was telling the team. "I like to shoot from the hip, and I told the players that we still have a commitment honor. They still have the responsibility as athletes to play the best at all times," he said.

Goad stated that they have fulfilled that goal, having competed against top teams such as the University of North Carolina.

"We have risen to the occasion as far as the competition this year," Goad said with pride.

Now he said the team’s focus will be on finishing the season as winners. "Our ultimate goal is to win games and to honor the Lord in those games," he said.

"We want to distinguish ourselves in softball, but we are still a minis­try," he commented. "The girls are committed, and it is through softball that they have an opportunity to witness."