U.S. secretary Hodel to address graduates
By Deborah Wood

More than 700 Liberty University students will enter a new world on Monday, May 5, at 10 a.m. It is a world comprised not of teachers, assignments and classes but of decisions, chances and perhaps success.

The 1986 Commencement ceremony will feature the Honorable Donald Hodel, U.S. secretary of the interior, as guest speaker, according to Jane McHaney, assistant dean of academic services.

The ceremony will be held in the Multi-Purpose Center, and the televised ceremony will be approximately two hours long.

It will be a traditional ceremony but with more pageantry and color, McHaney said, because of the addition of the different "school" banners.

McHaney said there were rumors that the graduates would not be handed their diplomas during the ceremony because of the large number of graduates.

However, McHaney stated that the Rev. Jerry Falwell would be personally handing out the diplomas. "It's a long time for Dr. Falwell to stand, but he wants to continue," she said.

The dedicatory prayer will be given by Dr. Truman Dollar, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, Mich.

The LU chamber choir and the Liberty marching band will perform during the graduation event.

In addition to the commencement exercises, President A. Pierre Guillemin will host the Liberty University President's Concert in the Multi-Purpose Center Saturday, May 3, at 7 p.m.

The semi-formal affair, which is for 1986 graduates and their families, will highlight the Sounds of Liberty, the Concert Choir and the Concert Band.

Following the concert there will be a reception in the DeMoss Hall Atrium.

Author
Student writes Christian fiction book
By M. Anthony Carr

His work was published in a family magazine when he was 13; he wrote Sunday School material at 16, and at 18 he had a dozen articles published, some in national magazines.

Now LU sophomore Jonathan Marc has written his first book, which will be released soon.

Marc desires to carry the Christian theme of his book A Change of Heart into a major television production with a desire to entice people with a very contemporary problem: an illegitimate relationship between a couple planning to marry who find themselves with a very contemporary problem.

Instead of going to college in the fall, as Chris Jacobs had planned, he marries Sharon Grant, and they begin setting up house in an old place Sharon inherited. In Sharon's third trimester she goes into labor but runs into complications. She eventually dies.

Students can buy the book when it comes out.

"Writing is a way of communicating how I feel inside," Marc said.

He added that it took him two years to write A Change of Heart.

The telecommunications major from Shavertown, Pa., writes on the side. His concentration is in television production with a desire to eventually build his On Track Productions into a major television production company.

"I would like to put out productions that are Christian in principle more indirectly than directly," Marc said.

Not only does the author attend Liberty, but the person who designed the cover is also a Liberty student, Anita Wiser from Clevelfield, Pa.

SGA sponsors Hawaiian event
By Pam Windham

The group Eternity will highlight Hawaiian Night, sponsored by Student Activities, in the DeMoss parking lot Saturday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saga will cater the event in the form of a Hawaiian luau. In addition, there will be a Hawaiian shirt contest, and Hawaiian leis will be distributed.


According to a biography published by the group, Eternity is a body of young musicians serving the Lord with their talents to reach people for Christ. Their desire is to communicate to people the love of Jesus, the life He offers and His answers to their problems.

The group sings traditional and contemporary music from such composers as The Gaithers, Gary S. Paxton, Stuart Hamblen, Don Francisco and David Meece.

Besides holding concerts in churches, colleges, schools, conventions, crusades, malls and prisons, the musical entourage has appeared at such places as the Pentagon and the Presidential Palace in Honduras.

Detector lessens book thefts
By Vivian Aalborg

According to Dr. Ernest Liddle, dean of library services, it seems that Liberty University students are more honest this year than in previous years. Very few students will actually take a book with the intention of stealing it," he said.

Approximately 100 books are stolen per year, a number Liddle feels is very small compared to the size of the student body.

"Over the years, however, this does accumulate," he continued. "Some of these books are impossible to replace because they are out of print."

If a book is irreplaceable, the student is charged a $40 fee. If the book is in print, he will be charged a $5 processing fee.

When books are stolen or lost and the user is not known, the school pays the cost of replacement when possible.

In addition, the library has a book detector system to hinder possible theft.

"In reality the system keeps honest people honest," Liddle commented.

The detector has an alarm which goes off when a book is taken through the entrance without being checked out by a librarian.
“Rolling with the punches” instills maturity in students

Marsha Wilde

As this semester draws to a close, each of us should take a long, hard look back at the progress we have made and the lessons we have learned during the biggest year of change at Liberty.

For in the midst of all of the physical additions such as new buildings, new rules and lots of new students, we have all been faced with adjusting, and more than ever, growing up.

And that is a task. In the chaotic life of a college student, the frustrations and the joys, more often than not, run in the extremes kind of like a roller coaster.

Learning how to deal with those extremes is one of the biggest challenges we face. And the decisions we make during those times are crucial. The trick, it seems, is to master the art of “rolling with the punches” instead of falling to them.

The support and encouragement of friends make this possible. For with others helping us the rolling is smoother, the landing softer and the growing easier.

Yet, in the final analysis, the responsibility for the decisions we made and the actions we took this year lies solely on our shoulders.

That is a big burden to carry and one that requires a lot of maturity. But after all, that is what all of the responsibility required of college students is supposed to instill in each of us.

You have said, “Young people keep you young,” Davis explained. “I remember people saying that statement before. Now I understand what they meant.”

“I enjoy the kids. I usually forget how old I am and feel the same age,” she stated. “Sometimes, though, I wonder why they don’t see things as I do, and I forget I have about 30 years more experience in life than they do.”

Yet, being around younger people was something she really didn’t have to adjust to because she worked with them in her last job. “I was used to this type of atmosphere,” she explained. “One thing I did have to get used to, though, was the discipline of having to study again.”

Reflecting on her decision to return to school, Davis said she would not change things. “I’d do it all over again the same way,” she said.

Elizabeth Davis keeps busy in the dell.—Photo by Aaron Hamrick

By Joella Knight

While most students are still worrying about clearing up their faces or finding a date for Friday night, Elizabeth Davis doesn’t concern herself. The 52-year-old student says she enjoys college life.

“Your young people keep you young,” Davis explained. “I remember people saying that statement before. Now I understand what they meant.”

A junior elementary education major from Jacksonville, Fla., she graduated with her husband from Tennessee Temple Bible School in 1959. After his death in 1968, Davis worked as a statistical clerk and later as a computer operator.

She decided to return to school after the last of her six children graduated from high school. She explained that she quit her job, sold her house and literally “came by faith” to attend Liberty. “I always wanted to be a teacher, and I appreciated Jerry’s call to excellence, so I came here,” she said.

Now a full semester load of 17 hours and her job as a cashier at the dell keep her busy. “I’ve taken a full load every semester,” she said.

Her family and friends think her going back to college is great. “My kids love it; they’re proud of me,” she said.

What is your favorite memory from the year?

By Steve Leer

When you have one last opportunity to address some 5,000 readers, you find yourself without adequate words to say.

That’s the dilemma I face with this final “Off the Record.”

For the last year and a half, I’ve experienced the greatest thrill (and sometimes the greatest headache) known to journalism—writing a column. I’ve had the unique freedom to poke fun at, satirize and generally mock the way we do at Liberty University students live, act and receive ourselves—and get away with it (well, at least MOST of the time). For those of you who were the unfortunate butt of an “Off the Record” joke, think of being such good sports. Libel court was never my idea of a great time.

Many of you have told me at one time or another how much you enjoyed certain columns, or that you looked forward to reading “Off the Record” each week. I appreciate your kindness—especially Jerry’s, and I do, and I forget I have about 30 years more experience in life than they do.”

When I graduate from this fine university in a matter of days, I’ll take with me hundreds of memories. Among the sweetest will be saying students snickering as they read “Off the Record.”

I’ll remember those long Sunday afternoons and evenings in the student center talking to you, fellow students.

But perhaps the most vivid memory will be placing that last story or picture caption down, the final touch on another issue—then turning my thoughts to the upcoming challenge—next week’s paper.

What I’m traveling several miles out of my way to say is, I’m proud to have been associated with a class organization like The Liberty Champion.

I’m even more proud to have served in a small way YOU—the students, faculty, staff and friends of Liberty University. You’ve been the best. And that’s the ON the record.
The fall semester of 1985 was a growing time for the newly estab­lished Liberty University. The DeMoss center, an $11 million dollar project large enough to house two football fields, opened its doors in time for the fall semester. Four new dorms were added. The Hancock Athletic Center was completed. In November, a swollen James River immersed Treasure Island, washing away its bridge and forcing the football team to postpone its season. But Liberty marched forward. In December, faculty, staff, and students joined together for the miraculous 11-mile Walk-A-Thon around Candler's Mountain. 1985 was....

The Year of Destiny
1986

For students returning in January, a new year had been born along with unforeseen challenges. Events ranging from campus-oriented to worldwide once again brought the campus together in unity. The Challenger disaster. Terrorism. The Lynchburg Bicentennial. SACS reaccreditation. Budget cuts. Layoffs. Students were given the opportunity to hear well-known personalities such as Steve Bell, John Levin and William Bennett. For most seniors, it was the most awaited moment—graduation.
White falls to Blue, 14-10

By Dave Dentel

“A good finish to a good spring” was head football coach Morgan Hout’s assessment of the hard-fighting Blue-White scrimmage in which the Blue squad topped the White team, 14-10 on Saturday.

Hout, who spent the game as an observer, stated he was pleased with his players’ efforts and especially happy with the excitement he saw his gridgers display.

Such player enthusiasm translated into exciting football as the lead changed hands at every score with the Blue team coming up with the last and winning touchdowns early in the fourth quarter.

The White squad, coached by Dean Vernon Brewer, opened up the scoring with a first-half field goal. The Blue team, under Vice President Edward Dobson, struck back with a touchdown for a half-time lead of 7-3.

Blue began the second half with possession of the ball, but a holding penalty combined with a sack of quarterback Paul Johnson, set it back on its own 10-yard. In two plays the squad was forced to punt.

Kenny Smith’s 43-yard punt gave White the ball on its own 47-yard line. In eight plays, relying mostly on the running of White team’s Most Valuable Player Willie Larkins, the squad pounded the ball into the end zone for a 14-10 go-ahead touchdown.

The Blue team did not cower in defeat, however. Taking the ball on his own 30-yard line, Johnson threw a 43-yard strike to move his team across midfield to the 38.

Five running plays later, early in the fourth quarter, Blue was facing a third-and-goal on the three-yard line. Like its opponents, Blue turned to its White squad, the team’s Most Valuable Player, Charles McCray.

On the next play, McCray took the ball up the middle, and upon meeting a wall of bodies, spun, then cut left to end up walking into the end zone untouched for the winning score.

The White team’s chance at a retaliatory score on the next possession ended in a fumble. The Blue team recovered but failed to capitalize, fumbling the ball after one unsuccessful flea-flicker.

White and Blue traded punts until the Blue squad threatened to score in a drive down to the 16-yard line. Then the White defense stiffened and forced a fumble. Two desperation passes ensued, but then time ran out, bringing to a close the scrimmage and spring football.

IN OPPOSITION—Vice President of Students Affairs Edward Dobson and Dean of Student Affairs Vernon Brewer share a laugh last Saturday. The two served as honorary coaches on opposing teams in the Blue-White football scrimmage. —Photo by Aaron Hamrick

Flames Sports

Graves named MVP

Netters take first shutout

By Tim Woltmann

Before the meet against Longwood College last Friday was halfway over, there was little doubt as to who would win. The only question remaining was, would the Liberty University tennis team score its first half over, there was little doubt that Longwood College was going to be an easy and decisive win.

Graves/Hibbard over Fagan/Lewis 6-5, 6-0 at number two doubles.

Jeff Mount at number two singles.

A record which Diemer said met their goal. He stated that he is pleased with the progress the team has made this season and is looking forward to next year.

Diemer added that a new ball machine which has been donated by John David Albury, the father of Tim Albury, will be a great help to the team next season.

In the other matches played Friday, Jay Hibbard defeated Chuck Fagan 6-3, 6-2 at number one. Collins cruised Mount 6-0, 6-0 at number three. Daniel Worthington beat Doug Todd 6-2, 6-2 at number five and Albury defeated John Pastino 6-2, 6-4 at number six.

In the other two doubles it was Graves/Hibbard over Fagan/Lewis 6-2, 6-4 at number one and Worthington/Albury over Todd/Pastino 6-1, 6-1.

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Free delivery on pizzas and sandwiches.
Golfers go undefeated, take state title

By Dave Dentel

The LU golf team captured the Virginia State Intercollegiate championship April 12-13 and ranked high in the Georgetown Invitational the following weekend.

The team also went on to win its two remaining home matches April 22-23 and finished its first spring season with a record of 8-0.

With this string of accomplishments, head coach Mike Hall said he was very happy, especially since his team ranked in the top 10 in the country heading into the season.

"It's been a great year," Hall said. "We had a lot of success and it was very rewarding for the players." 

The Flames topped, in addition to Hampton-Sydney, Bridgewater and Roanoke College.

In the second match the Flames, without top performer Daniel Owen, shot a collective 318, defeating Randolph-Macon.

In the first match LU shot 315, led by low-scoring McKeehan who shot 76. The Flames topped, in addition to Hampton-Sydney, Bridgewater and Roanoke College.

Steady Would-Be

"I think we've had a great year," Hall said. "We've been consistent and we've been able to win a lot of matches." 

The Flames ended the season with a record of 8-0, including a victory over Randolph-Macon.

Sports staff selects top 10 stories

These are the top ten sports stories of the LU 1985-86 year as voted by The Liberty Champion staff.

1. November 5, 1985—The James River Flood destroyed the football facilities at Treasure Island.
4. October 1986—Liberty soccer team ranked in the top 10 in the country in Division II.
5. December 5, 1985—Kevin Ed-}

Remember—The destruction of the football equipment in the November flood forced an early end to the Flames season. —Photo by John Henley

SPORTSCENE Edit

Dear Readers:

I have been in journalism for many years and have seen many changes in the industry. I want to share one of those changes with you.

In the past, I was a reporter for a local newspaper and covered stories on a daily basis. I was able to write about all sorts of topics, from local events to national news. But as time went on, I realized that I wasn't doing what I really enjoyed.

So I decided to change careers and become a sports writer. It was a difficult decision, but I knew it was the right one for me. And I've never looked back.

I've been covering sports for over 20 years now, and I've seen a lot of changes. But one thing that hasn't changed is my love for the game. I still enjoy writing about sports, and I hope you enjoy reading about them too.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]