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TV movie fails to capture hero

Commentary brings faults of "Reagan" movie to light

SEE PAGE 6

Mel Gibson drops by Liberty

Actor checks out possible venue for his new movie

SEE PAGE 4



La Boheme hits center stage

Life! announces premier of world-class play at Liberty

SEE PAGE 8



The Liberty Champion

SERVING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY FOR TWENTY YEARS VOL. 21, NO. 7 NOVEMBER 4, 2003

MEW draws compliments

Brian Long
NEWS REPORTER

Journeyman missionaries from the International Missions Board led several different activities during Liberty University's Fall Missions emphasis this past week.

The missions conference lasted from Monday, October 27 to Wednesday the 29th. About six tables were set up with information about global missions.

"I think that the missions conference is fantastic," said Carl Rees, Richmond Associate for the Middle-America Region of the International Missions Board. "It gives us a chance to mix with the students and kind of see where the students are today. It also gives them a time to mix with us and ask any questions that they have."

There were a total of six booths, three in front of the bookstore, and three in the main hallway of DeMoss. Some of the tables were worked by "Journeyman," young missionaries who had just returned from the missions field. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about missionary experience first hand.

There was also a time of questions and answers on Monday night where the students were able to find out information about the missionaries and the International Missions Board. The missionaries formed a panel and students were able to ask questions.

The journeyman missionaries were very impressed with the enthusiasm that the students showed.

"Our experience here has been very good," exclaimed one of the journeyman, "We've had a lot of students who've showed a lot of interest in missions, especially the freshman."

Most of the journeyman served in different parts of the world. Some were from Asia, Africa and Central America. They were able to share a lot of their experiences and joys of serving on the missions field. Some of the journeyman started out as students who wanted to work for a few years as missionaries before they started off in their career paths.

"The conference is really good," said Ryan Murnane, a freshman. "It's not mandatory for the people who want go so they won't be influenced by the people who don't want to go."

Last Tuesday, students were able to go to seminars relating to topics such as ministering to Muslims and Roman Catholics, and different ideas for reaching the unreached.

Wildfires worry students from California

By Sara Lesley
COPY EDITOR

Nearly 3,000 miles away, raging wildfires in Southern California threatened to devour everything in their path, destroying entire neighborhoods and towns. In what officials have declared the largest disaster to ever hit California, nearly 800,000 acres and close to 3,000 homes were reduced to smoldering ash.

For some Liberty students, these statistics are more than numbers. "If you're living in that area," said seminary student John Rouleau, "you know people that

have been affected." Rouleau is from San Diego, Calif., where the fires blistered thousands of acres and forced families to flee from their homes. Although Rouleau's family did not have to evacuate, his pastor did have to leave. Fortunately, his house did not suffer damage.

Senior Amanda Smith's worst nightmare came true when she received a call at noon last Tuesday from her uncle. "He called and said, 'your family has to evacuate right now; they have to get out of the house.'" He told her that her parents didn't even have time to call her. The news came as a "total

shock" for Smith, because her family was told the night before that their neighborhood was not threatened. In the middle of the night, however, the winds blew the blaze closer than expected.

Smith called her house anyway and talked to her mom. "My mom was really upset," she said, "we were both crying." Her mom told her, "I've got all of the photo albums. Is there anything out of your room that you want?" Smith said she felt helpless and anxious for her family.



Please see FIRES, page 4

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COFFEEHOUSE '03



JEN SUSSINE

LATE NIGHT SPECTACLE—Coffeehouse '03 mixed rock, rap, and other rhythmic styles to showcase student talent. Acts varied from a skit, to cover bands, to the country quartet pictured above. Students packed out the Schilling Center making this Coffeehouse the largest ever. See the Life! section for the full scoop on the night's happenings.

LU hosts Evening of Literature

By Misty Maynard
NEWS REPORTER

"Jabberwocky," "How Did You Die" and "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" were only a few of the selections performed at Tuesday night's Evening of Performance in Literature. Though some students came for extra credit and some because their friends were performing, the majority of the crowd was there to enjoy the dramatic readings and performances.

The Evening of Performance allowed students to experience both original and established literary masterpieces. Selections ranged from serious to light-hearted pieces.

"I enjoy listening to poetry. It's really awesome to hear an individual express something important to them," junior Lindsey Jordan said.

"I think the best thing is the opportunity to perform and perform something more literary, rather than just for fun," said Professor Rhodes, who helped organize the event. "It's a form of entertainment that has culture and sophistication."

The Evening of Performance offered an entertaining and enlightening alternative to the things that students might normally go to, such as a Tuesday night movie. Many students took advantage of the free event. The crowd inside DeMoss 1049 was so large that as many as 25 students had to remain in the hallway and listen to the readings through speakers that had been set up prior to the show.

Please see LITERATURE, page 4

Texas Inn still draws students

Brooke Anderson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sitting confidently at the corner of 422 Main Street is a little white house with a blue roof and a sign that says "Texas Inn." Serving its unique style of chili and hamburgers, Texas Inn, affectionately nicknamed the T-room, holds a special place in the hearts of its customers.

"It's just so different from anything else on the entire planet," said Matthew Huntley, junior. "The idea of putting a scrambled egg on a burger is...genius."

The "cheesy western," featuring a scrambled egg and a slice of cheese on a hamburger, is the most popular item to order at Texas Inn.

"It's comfort food. It's grease at its best!" said Daniel Davis, third year seminary student.

While the fast, cheap, and delicious food gets customers in the door, it is the atmosphere that keeps them coming back. Fifteen red-seated stools line the counter-top, and behind it stands a waitress waiting to yell an order to the cook.

"We seat 15,000, 15 at a time," Cynthia Cash said. Cash has been working as a waitress at Texas Inn for 16 years.

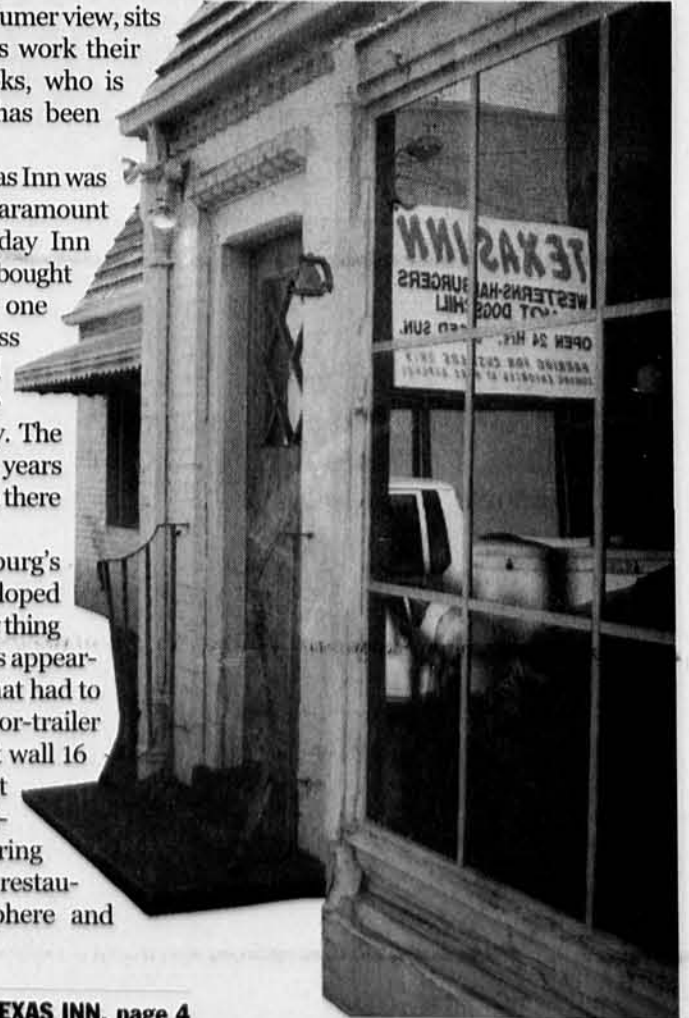
A sign hangs above the cash register, "We do not cash checks or play with bumble-

bees." To the right, in costumer view, sits the grill where the cooks work their magic. One of the cooks, who is referred to as "Duck," has been there for 20 years.

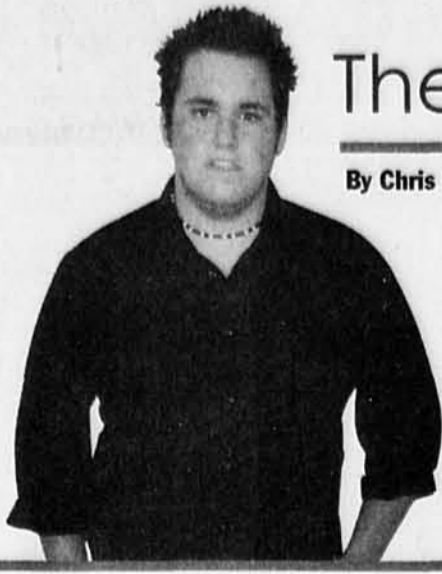
At its birth in 1935, Texas Inn was located next to the old Paramount Theatre where the Holiday Inn Select is now. Wiley Eagle bought the original building for one dollar and ran the business at its original location until 1969 when he decided to relocate just a block away. The restaurant reopened two years later in 1972, and has been there ever since.

Although Lynchburg's downtown area has developed around Texas Inn, the only thing that has changed about its appearance is the remodeling that had to be done after a tractor-trailer crashed through its front wall 16 years ago. The fact that it has stayed true to its original design is the endearing ingredient that gives the restaurant its unique atmosphere and keeps its diners satisfied.

Please see TEXAS INN, page 4



JEN SUSSINE



The Price is Right

By Chris Price

"You get mad at her for being an hour late, just apologize for being an hour too on time. If you are mad because she hasn't called you in a couple days, just apologize for setting your communications standards too high."

Everywhere I go I am constantly bombarded with relationship questions. People from all walks of life stop me on the street and tell me their life's problems knowing that their only hope in their relationship is to swim in the fountain of my wisdom. Okay so maybe that is a lie, but that is not going to stop me from giving my rules for a happy relationship.

Rule 1: Guys, if ever in an argument you feel that you are right (which you probably are), it is easier just to say you're sorry even if you don't mean it. If you get mad at her for being an hour late, just apologize for being an hour too on time. If you are mad because she hasn't called you in a couple days, just apologize for setting your communications standards too high. If she spends all your money and you are broke for a month, just say your sorry there wasn't more in your wallet to take. Whatever the case is, just say sorry. Even if you could win the argument you are going to lose in the long run. Some may call this having no backbone, I call it not having an angry woman. I would rather be put in a cell with the most hardened of all criminals than to have a woman mad at me.

Rule 2: Girls, if you ask us to do something, we don't need to be reminded a hundred times. I know that you were born with a set of genes that requires you to ask a question or remind us to do something so many times that all we want to do is beat our heads up against something until your voice goes away, but try to keep the nagging to a minimum. We aren't Helen Keller. We heard you the first 10 times.

Rule 3: Guys don't be cheap. For some guys this is not a problem, but for a lot of men, opening their wallets is an act of God much like a tornado or earthquake. Spend the cash. Let her Biggie size.

Rule 4: Girls don't ask questions that you don't want to know the answer to. These include, "Do you think she is pretty?" "What do you think of my hair?" "Would you still like me if I wasn't as pretty?" and "Does this article of clothing make me look fat?" Some guys don't realize proper answers to these questions and will tell you more than you want to know. Guys, if you are trapped in this situation and don't know what to do, act like you didn't hear them, or fake a heart attack. No girl can get mad at someone who is nearing cardiac arrest. In case these don't work, just run as far away as you can.

Rule 5: Compromise. Guys if you want to see an action movie and she wants "Hope Floats" or "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" see the action flick but tell her she can hold the popcorn this time. It is a small sacrifice like this that keeps the romance going. By the way I wanted to find a Big Fat Greek Noose and hang myself during that stupid movie.

Rule 6: Never make your love interest do something they don't want to do. Guys don't make them go to a monster truck rally, anything with a mosh pit, professional wrestling, or sporting events she hates. Girls, never make a guy see a ballet, an opera, a Julia Roberts romantic comedy, ice skating, or anything that involves sequins and effeminate men.

These rules will help save many a bad relationship. By simply following these rules you may be able to keep the flame burning. And yes, that was me that got hit in the head by the airplane that was thrown off the stage at Coffeehouse last Friday night. Hope you enjoyed that, I wanted to die of embarrassment.

When it comes to relationships, the Price is Right.

Professor Profile: Bruce Kirk's credentials are his experience

By Ashley Haygood
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Bruce Kirk, News Director for WSET-TV and professor at LU, has had the distinguished honor to interview both President Bush, Sr. and President Clinton. He has won five Emmy's for outstanding work in television news reporting and has traveled overseas to delve into the world of foreign medical care.

Professor Bruce Kirk is what you would call an experienced professor; he knows what he's talking about.

Starting young, Kirk knew communications was in his future. "As a young man, I loved radio and I started to realize I had a good voice. I met a man who ran a recording studio and quickly learned there was a field in which I might be able to make a career. I made audio tapes and started knocking on doors."

Ironically enough, Kirk put aside his interest in news and pursued a much different path in college. "I began college at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio to become a pharmacist." Several years into that program Kirk switched majors and colleges as he transferred to Kent State University to pursue a degree in Liberal Arts.

After attending Kent in the early 70s, Kirk would return in 1980 to do a series of reports on the riots and deaths of students in the Vietnam War. For this work, he won a television Emmy.

The road from those early days in reporting to his current job as News Director of the ABC station, WSET-TV, proved to only add to his resume.

Kirk began his career in radio news reporting in the mid-70's in Columbus, Ohio. In 1978 he moved into the television arena where his station, WBNS-TV, was the number one rated station in Columbus. After four years with CBS, Kirk switched to an ABC station across town as an anchor.

In 1984, Kirk moved to Detroit and a CBS station. By 1990, he was heading south to Phoenix, Ariz. to work for NBC. Soon after he found himself in radio again, but four years later went back to television, first as an executive producer for a TV station in Phoenix, then as a news director for a NBC station in Yuma, Ariz.

Just two years ago, Kirk accepted the position as news director for the local ABC station, WSET-TV and also began teaching here at Liberty. "I had a great deal of respect for Dr. Falwell, long before arriving in Lynchburg or at Liberty."

"The WSET job came first, and then I applied to the School of Communications second. I knew I would be here for some time, and desired to have an impact in a positive way on young people."

While in Arizona, Kirk also taught at the Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University.

Kirk's passion to have an impact on journalism students led him to apply to Liberty. "My love for teaching was a

number one. However, my desire to have a spiritual impact on students was right behind it. As a born-again Christian, I feel a moral obligation to do my part in the media."

That moral obligation is one thing that drives Kirk to prepare his students for the news industry. "No matter what branch of journalism you enter, bring your moral compass along. There is an incredible need for journalists with moral convictions to step-up."

In the news industry today, issues across the board are gaining coverage.

A current issue, the separation of church and state, is one that Kirk feels has been covered poorly. "I don't think reporters get it at all. I believe they, much as the public, have a tainted view of what this really means. It was meant to take the government out of church, not the church out of the government."

Students of Kirk's here at Liberty agree that his background in news gives him a strong sense of credibility. "He brings a depth of real world experience to his job," senior Jeremy Broggi said.

As many reporters covet interviews with high profile celebrities and political leaders, Kirk would choose a famous historical figure. "There is no doubt about it, it would be Jesus. There are so many questions to ask. Why the steps he took while on earth? How does he feel about the ACLU and others questioning his word? Why did he not stay longer?"

Kirk also comments that the gay "rights" issue is not getting enough coverage in the news. "I am saddened to say, I continue to see the folding of our moral compass, so as not to offend anyone. This is not only sad, but in the end, will be the unfolding of mankind."

As a highly experienced professional, Bruce Kirk is making a knowledgeable addition to the LU family.

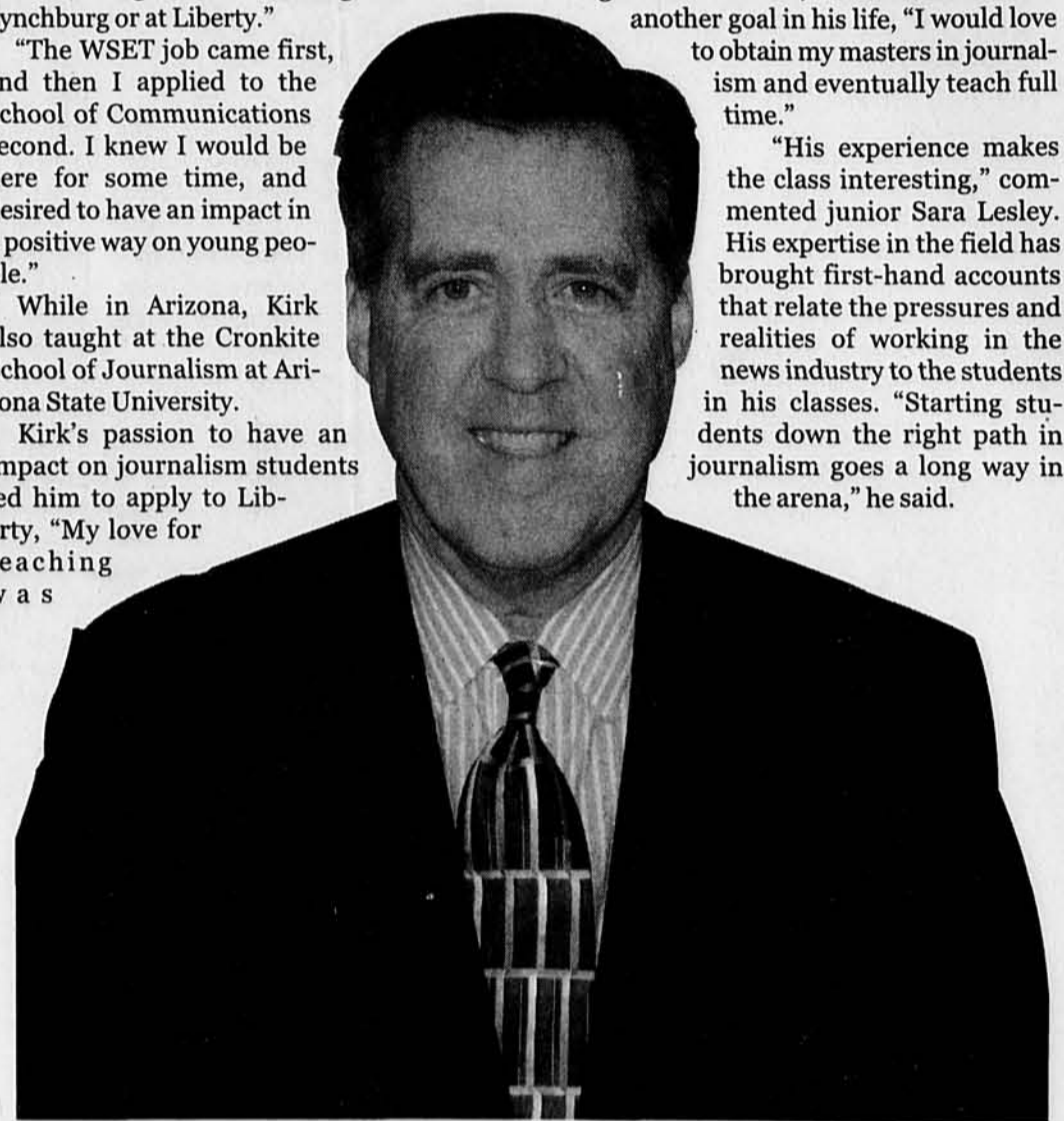
This past Thursday night Kirk spoke at the PRSSA meeting on the connection between business and the media. Public relations professionals must maintain a pleasant relationship with the media when working so closely together.

"I would say anytime a student can be involved in learning, and the PRSSA offers that avenue, I would take advantage of it."

Kirk informed the crowd of public relations students how to steer clear of writing a bad press release. He also touched on "how to make the media love you," including offering food as a possible method.

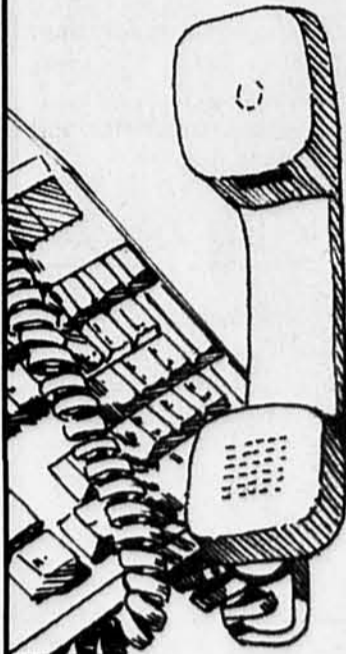
With his wife and four children, ranging in ages from 4 to 20, Kirk aims towards another goal in his life, "I would love to obtain my masters in journalism and eventually teach full time."

"His experience makes the class interesting," commented junior Sara Lesley. His expertise in the field has brought first-hand accounts that relate the pressures and realities of working in the news industry to the students in his classes. "Starting students down the right path in journalism goes a long way in the arena," he said.



JASON POPE

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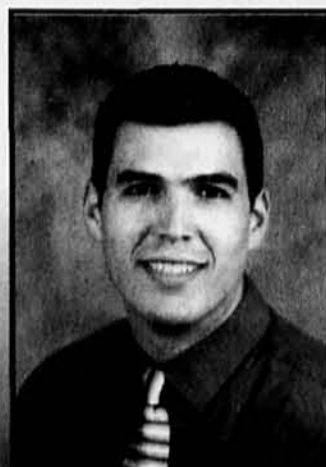
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Shepherd Ministries makes disciples

By Justin Faulconer
NEWS REPORTER

Their goal is to make disciples who make disciples who make more disciples. Who are they? Shepherd Ministries.

"Our mission is to work alongside the local church and help encourage, evangelize, and equip the local church body to become more like Christ," said Monica Rose, the Coordinator of Shepherd Ministries and founder of the "True Identity" ladies' ministry. "That's discipleship," she added.

According to Randy Spencer, Director of Center for Ministry Training, Shepherd Ministries began eight years ago when Dr. Danny Lovett took some students traveling to give them ministry experience. At that time there were around four people, and it has grown every year. Currently, it has anywhere from 150-175 students participating. There are 11 teams and they represent a number of different specialties.

Three "Vision" teams do drama, music, and skits. Shepherd Ministries also has children's ministry teams, a "Powerhouse Preaching" group of guys who are available for pulpit deliveries when needed, a team that goes out witnessing on Friday nights, and a ladies' ministry team called "True Identity." There are seminary leaders assigned over each team, which mostly consist of undergrad students, who schedule and coordinate their ministries.

Rose said that what the teams do depends on the churches they visit. The majority of their weekend activities are called "Disciple Now" weekends, where they will spend the entire weekend doing ministry that will carry over into the Sunday morning.

Training for the ministry depends on the team and what positions are available, but Rose said that there are plenty of openings.

"What we look for is the heartbeat of the person and their desire to do ministry,"

Rose said. "This whole thing is about giving people opportunities to share Christ."

The team leaders meet every Thursday and once a month everyone involved attends a corporate meeting in the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center. They are required to go into a church to do ministry at least twice a semester, but Rose estimated that the average time invested by all ministry teams combined comes to about two hours a week. The seminary leaders receive scholarships for their efforts, but the undergraduates do it for free. The reward for them is not only being able to cultivate friendships but receiving vital ministry experience.

"It's a stepping stone to see where God can use you in the future," said Sam Heffner, a seminary leader for the varsity Vision team.

The students involved are not just from the School of Religion, but from all other kinds of majors and they help a variety of people outside the church as well. The Friday night witnessing team targets

all of Lynchburg and the True Identity ministry goes into nursing homes and teen pregnancy centers. Rose is currently trying to get the team entrance into a battered woman's shelter. True Identity has about 25 ladies participating and Rose said she is looking for more.

Anyone wanting to get involved should stop by the Seminary Office in the Religion Hall and see Rose personally before Christmas break. The application process is very short and painless and all that is needed is a heart for ministry. "I've never met such servants who are willing to do anything to share the Gospel, even if it's taking out the trash" she said. Shepherd Ministries is also willing to take on new student ministries and will provide food and gas expenses.

"I was a part of Shepherd's for two years and went to churches where I've shoveled gravel but it didn't matter because our goal was to do whatever was needed" senior Angela Burton said.



If you don't want to be a missionary, this column is for you.

Last week was probably my favorite week of the semester: Missions Emphasis Week. I heard about missions in convo, I attended missions seminars in the evenings and I met with individual missionaries to hear their stories and to ask questions. As I did all this I felt like a kid on Christmas morning. I ate up everything I learned, and this IMB conference whetted my appetite to serve God overseas for the rest of my life.

Regrettably, however, most Liberty students wouldn't compare a missions conference to the excitement of Christmas morning. The groggy feeling before an 8 a.m. class better depicts the attitude of many when they are challenged about missions. Those who want to stay at home squirm in their seats when they sit through these conferences.

"You need to be obedient to the Great Commission," mission-minded preachers regularly remind us. "The task is clear. You should only stay in America if God calls you to stay!"

That's why people squirm. Such messages imply that non-missionary Christians are second-class followers of Christ. It comes across like believers in America who haven't dropped their nets to go to Saudi Arabia haven't yet evolved into the highest Christian form and that is unfortunate.

Therefore, if you can identify with this frustration, then the following, which I borrowed directly from John Piper, will hopefully comfort you in your decision to serve God at home. (As I refer to "domestic ministry," I am referring to all forms of Christian service in America...everything from pastoring a church to volunteering at a soup kitchen on Saturday mornings.)

1. Domestic ministry empowers missions.

Without those at home, who would financially and prayerfully support missionaries? Without ministry experience at home, how would an individual ever come to the place where he wanted to do overseas missions? Without advocates at home, who would make the church aware of the great needs overseas?

Just as certain men lowered the apostle Paul in a basket to help him escape a hostile situation and minister elsewhere, God has appointed that many be in the basket-lowering business back home (Acts 9).

2. Domestic ministry is the goal of missions.

When the gospel comes to a new area, the goal is not simply to see how quickly those people can take the good news somewhere else. The goal, instead, is to allow the gospel to change lives. For this to happen, ministries must begin.

Not only do couples need to be saved, but their marriages also need to heal. Accordingly, counseling ministries begin. Not only do hungry children need Christ, but they also need a home—so orphanages begin. Thus, a missionary's ultimate goal is to create domestic ministries in unreached areas.

Therefore, you who are doing domestic ministry shouldn't feel guilty for not going abroad. You are fulfilling the purposes of the missionaries who brought the gospel to America years ago.

Honestly, it pains me writing this way. My heartbeat is to encourage others to look at the unreached harvest fields, not to stay at home. However, I feel like some balance on this issue is needed.

Altogether, every Christian should be passionate about seeing people from every tongue and tribe worship at Christ's feet, but God wants some soldiers to be in support units rather than in combat units.

If you squirm when you hear mission sermons, then maybe you do need to reconsider your life plan, but just remember that the Great Commission is not the only commission. There are other kinds of domestic ministries, and praise God if he leads some in that direction.

Kappa Delta Pi 'educating' campus

By Joe Reitz
NEWS REPORTER

For anyone who is considering a major in education, Kappa Delta Pi may be of interest.

"Kappa Delta Pi is an international honors society in education," KDP President Mark Jennings said. Most students do not realize how involved Kappa Delta Pi is with the student body and the Lynchburg community.

KDP has a Chick-Fil-A calendar sale, a carwash and many other fundraisers and activities. All of these are ways that KDP is trying to reach out and serve their community. "Anyone can participate in KDP activities; we want to start opening things up to the community," Jennings said.

"Chapter events are designed to promote awareness toward current educational trends and provide relevant topics of interest for future educators," according to the KDP website.

Some interesting upcoming events that KDP will be involved with are College for a Weekend (November 14), a workshop on new methodologies in education (on November 13 in Demoss Hall 1113), and Operation Christmas Child (from October 15 until November 15). Also, Chick-Fil-A

coupon calendars will be on sale until December 4th.

The purpose of an organization like Kappa Delta Pi is "to deal with issues for (future) educators" Jennings said. The Kappa Delta Pi mission statement proposes that KDP "recognizes scholarship



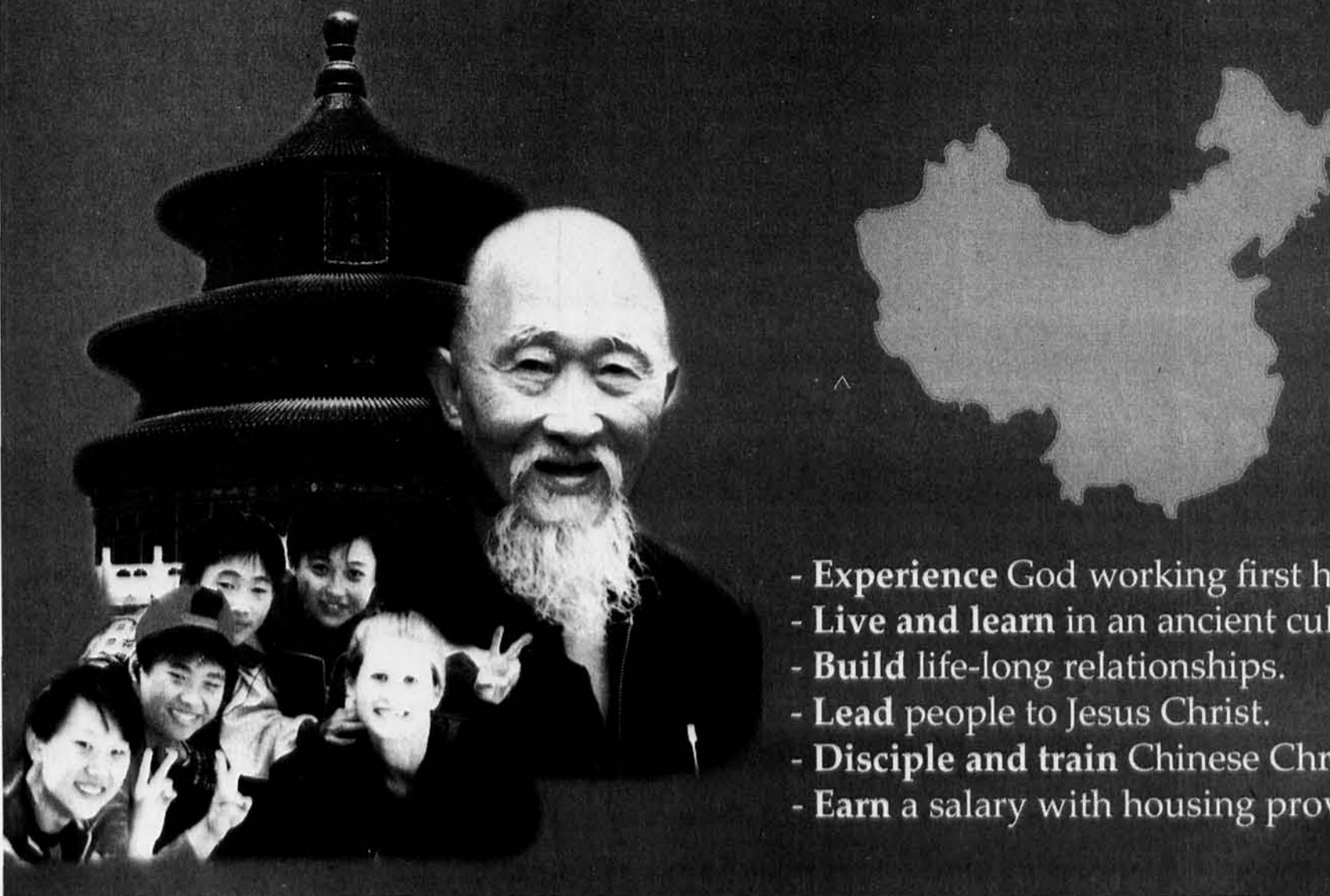
and excellence in education, promotes the development and dissemination of worthy educational ideas and practices, enhances the continuous growth and leadership of its diverse membership, fosters inquiry and reflection on significant educational issues, and maintains a high degree of professional fellowship." The requirements to become a mem-

ber of Kappa Delta Pi are not unattainable. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a declared major in education are among the first requirements listed on KDP's informational website. Also, students planning on joining will need to be admitted to the teacher licensure program and have the recommendation of a faculty member who is also a member of KDP.

"The interesting thing about KDP is that unlike other honor societies, you must pledge to join" Jennings said. In order to successfully be inducted, you must complete two functions and two projects; a function would be like one of the many workshops KDP conducts per semester, while a project could be one of their fundraisers, like the Chick-Fil-A calendar sale.

Once a student is inducted, he or she has two options. Option one is to be an idle member of the society and have something nice to write on your resumé. The other option is to work for an "honor cord." "The way you earn an honor cord is by accumulating points- 3 points per semester until you graduate," Jennings said. Points can be earned by doing simple things, like diligently showing up for KDP chapter meetings, or being involved in a project or fundraiser.

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Corrections: Last week the Champion reported that Emergency Services was upgrading their Basic Life Support classification to ALS. The correct classification was ASL.

The pictures from the "I have a dream" photo spread, which went unattributed were taken by Susan Whitley, photography editor.

Questions, Comments or Story Ideas?

Email us at editor@liberty.edu

Mel Gibson pays short visit to LU Literature:

students perform original pieces



STAR POWER— Actor Mel Gibson makes a brief stop by LU, including taking in a quick minute of the volleyball game.

Dana Foglesong
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Mel Gibson watched as the Lady Flames Volleyball team beat UNC Greensboro last Thursday. Rumors had been circulating for some time that Gibson would be speaking in convocation. However, the reason for his visit to Lynchburg was to sign a contract with InService America for his upcoming movie, "Passion of Christ."

Gibson, best known for his work in movies such as "Braveheart," "The Patriot" and "Signs," is the co-producer and co-screenwriter of "Passion of

Christ." The movie, a vivid and often violent depiction of the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life, has received widespread attention in both religious and secular circles.

InService America, a local call center that makes and receives calls for Christian organizations and businesses, would not disclose the details of its contract with Gibson.

Gibson's visit was a well-kept secret, with the local media finding out only after the event took place. Senior Brenda Hershey heard the rumor that Gibson was in town and drove to InService America to look for the celebrity.

"My friend and I sped to InService and circled the building looking for a limo," Hershey said.

Instead of finding a limousine, Hershey saw Dr. Jerry Falwell walking into the building.

"That's when we knew something was going on. We went inside but were asked to leave. So we waited in the car until they came out," she said.

The students decided to follow the Gibson entourage, thinking they were headed to the airport, but were surprised to find they ended up back on campus.

"We honestly thought the guy we saw was a decoy but they headed to the Vines Center and we followed right after them," Hershey said.

Someone traveling with Gibson asked the girls if they had been following them.

"We said yes and apologized for acting like paparazzi. Then Mel Gibson smiled and said it was okay as long as we didn't print anything scandalous, then he shook our hands," Hershey said.

Gibson arrived at Liberty in a white 15-passenger van. Traveling with his son, a few security guards, and several business associates, he went virtually unnoticed by students passing by.

Standing on the concourse of

the Vines Center, Gibson watched as the Flames Volleyball team played against UNC Greensboro. The players never slowed their game and the fans continued to cheer as most of the crowd remained oblivious to the fact that one of Hollywood's biggest A-list stars was watching them from above. And this may not be his only visit.

Dwayne Carson said in convocation last Friday that there is a possibility that the student body would be able to view the movie before its release date. He also said that there is a chance that Gibson himself would be revisiting the campus to see the movie with the students. Part of the reason for this recent visit last Thursday, according to Carson, was for Gibson to take a look at the facilities in order to see if they would be adequate to show the movie.

After this brief visit, Gibson turned to leave. It was then that a crowd of students realized who he was and gathered around him. Gibson graciously signed autographs on notebook paper and posed for pictures from a few lucky students who happened to have a camera handy. As he drove away, he waved to an excited group of students who were lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time.

Continued from page 1

The stage was set with two blue loveseats and elegant lamps for a conservative, academic atmosphere. The students performed with emotion, using their arms to convey the messages of their respective pieces. Facial expressions were often used to express the comedy or tragedy of an event.

Among the darker selections was "The Cask of Amontillado," written by Edgar Allan Poe and performed by Joshua Butcher. Butcher used his arms to build the wall he spoke of so that the audience could visualize the scene. His voice rose and fell with the emotion of the man trapped inside.

To balance out the depth of the emotional performances were pieces selected simply because they were fun. "Chaplinesque" was among these pieces. The performance included a comic skit and a reading of the poem "Chaplinesque" by Hart Crane. The two girls who were involved in this selection were Sarah Eggar

and Cheryl Pesce. They even dressed for the occasion, wearing suits and fake mustaches as they enacted a skit with onions, a sandwich, playing cards and a fake pistol as props.

One of the pieces that got the most audience reaction, however, was an original selection called "On Being Unable to Look Away from 'Wheel of Fortune' while rewinding a Tape of the History of Civilization." This selection was produced by return performer Jonathan Samuelson and contained both humorous and thought-provoking aspects.

One night every semester is devoted to an Evening of Performance in Literature. The committee in charge of choosing the pieces that will be performed encourage original submissions. They also like to see fresh faces among the students who submit their selections for review. The next Evening of Performances will be in March. Students interested in submitting a selection should watch the splash page for upcoming announcements.

Fires: Hit close to home for LU students

Continued from page 1

"I could just picture my family in a total frenzy loading up the car" with every precious item they could salvage.

Later that day, the winds shifted and the fire went around Smith's neighborhood.

"No houses in the immediate area were burned," she said. Her family was allowed to move back into their house later than evening.

Smith said she was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief, but the entire day she didn't know about the welfare of her family or what had happened to her home. "I felt so out of control," she said.

Sophomore Rachel VanHofwegen from Riverside, Calif. also has family that were forced from their home last week.

They were able to go back to their house last Monday,

but some of the people she knows had no house to come back to. "My former volleyball coach got burned out of his house," said VanHofwegen, who plays volleyball for Liberty.

She said that her family described the smoke and the ash, which is two inches deep in their driveway. "My brother and sister have bad asthma," she said. "It's hard for them to breathe." VanHofwegen is thankful that everyone she knows is safe.

"We just need to keep everyone in prayer right now, especially those who got burnt out (of their homes)," she said.

Senior Dana Cashion is from Victorville, Calif., which is in a valley 20 miles past Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead — the two areas hardest hit. Her aunt's house burned to the ground, and most of her friends had to evacuate. She

said her friends described "the winds blowing the fire into little tornadoes."

Her parents had to move her grandparents out last Wednesday after the fires threatened within 10 miles from their home.

"The hardest part for my family is the main roadways are completely shut down," said Cashion, adding that if the fires did force them to evacuate, they would have to drive several hours to Las Vegas.

Junior Becky Rudnick saw the devastation first-hand when she visited Santa Clarita, Calif. last week. Although the town was not in the immediate path of the fires, she said the smoke was so thick it was hard to breathe.

"There were ashes floating in the air, the cars were covered in ash," she said, "and the sun looked like a solar

eclipse." The fires paralyzed most transportation. "They had to close down a major expressway where I was because the fire almost jumped the road," Rudnick said.

Because of the low visibility and fire damage to a flight control panel, Rudnick's flight was delayed for a couple days.

For more than a week now, firefighters battled the infernos, which are a combination of several fires in the area.

With the help of rainy weather this weekend, firefighters were able to get most of the fires under control. Full containment is expected this week. California is spending an estimated \$9 million a day to fight the wildfires, which could reach \$200 million before it is fully contained. The blaze is estimated to cost California a total of \$2 billion in damage.

Texas Inn: LU fave

Continued from page 1

"I call this place 'As the Cheesy Turns' cause there is more drama here than on 'One Life to Live,'" Cash said.

"We see a little bit of everybody here," said Debbie Eagle, Texas Inn waitress for 12 years. "Rich people, poor people." Even the popular country singer, Phil Vassar, stops by whenever he is in town.

Current Liberty students and even graduates make their way to Texas Inn whenever they can. "You have to do it just once," senior Laura Davies said.

Texas Inn still has a special place in the hearts of Liberty graduates.

"The first restaurant I

came to [in Lynchburg] was the Texas Inn," said Ed Gomes, graduate of 1976. "I get a bowl all the way and a cheesy all the way."

"Whenever there were girl problems or school problems, we made our way to Texas Inn for comfort food," said David Anderson, graduate of 1979.


The waitresses, the food, and the cultural diversity contribute to the devotion many Liberty students have for the T-room.

"It is the experience of Lynchburg," Campus Pastor Johnnie Moore said.


"You can't go to Liberty without experiencing Texas Inn," said Chris Blanton, graduate of 2003. "It should be a graduation requirement."

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Debate tops the ranks

Jake Belue
NEWS EDITOR

The last time the debate team did not place first or second in a tournament was in last year's King's College Tournament.

The team just won their third consecutive tournament at the Catholic University Washington Fall Classic on the weekend of October 17. Beating teams from the Naval Academy, the University of Miami, Richmond and Cornell, Liberty continued its streak of having at least one team in the final round at a full squad tournament for over a year running. This was the team's second double-division win this year as they took first place in the novice and junior varsity divisions.

Brett O'Donnell called it "an unheard of accomplishment."

An even greater accomplishment is Liberty's position at the top of all three national rankings on first release. Liberty is on pace to break the records in each of those rankings. If they continue to show strength in the upcoming tournaments, Liberty could break the total record for points in all three organizations, which include CEDA, ADA and NDT. Liberty is the only school to have a national championship in each organization.

An empty shoe box is good for little except throwing in the trash. But when that shoe box is filled with toys and other small gifts, it becomes a treasure chest that can bring Christmas joy and the love of God to a needy child. Each year, Operation Christmas Child delivers millions of gift filled boxes around the world to boys and girls who are suffering because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness, or neglect.

Come and see the Operation Christmas Child Table in DeMoss.

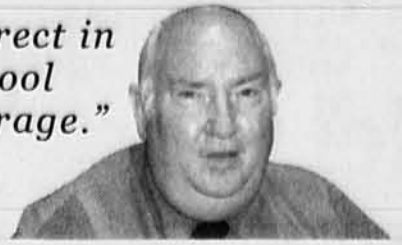


Opinion

"I don't know whether or not the school was correct in suspending the student but I do know the school deserves an 'F' in the handling of the news coverage."

Dr. Robert Lyster

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



Drawing conclusions

How bad PR led to confusion in the suspension case of Scott Switzer



jasonpope

News writing is a medium of communication that feeds the public the objective facts needed to make value judgments. So when I read that a 14-year-old kid was suspended from a New Jersey school for drawing a U.S. Marine stick figure killing a Taliban fighter, I believed it. The more I thought

about it, however, the more I could not believe that foxnews.com was giving me the whole story, or more specifically, that Fox had been given the whole story. Because value judgments should rarely be made on a single source, I decided to look into it further to find more information on what actually happened.

Because Fox reported that Scott Switzer was suspended for drawing a "patriotic" Marine/Taliban war scene, I initially presumed that Tinton Falls Middle School had a problem with such depictions of government sponsored war activity, despite its relevance to Switzer. As Fox reports, both Switzer's dad and stepdad are in the military. This is a strange position for a school to take considering that any complete text of U.S. history will include graphic depictions of important events: a martyr's final moment of life, bodies littering a Civil War battlefield, or the point blank shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Instead, I began to think critically about the article and why issues of patriotism were present in the statements of others and not those of the school.

Superintendent Leonard Kelpsh didn't make any patriotic reference to Switzer's work when he told Fox, "He's been punished for the drawing ..." and "... we felt it was highly inappropriate, and we took it very seriously." Unless an assumption is drawn as to the exact objectionable components of the piece, such as its violent qualities, Fox's use of Kelpsh's comments lead the reader to believe the level of patriotism was disfavored.

It is probable that I would not have gotten the whole story had I not personally emailed the school's principal and asked for clarification. In a speedy 11 minutes I was forwarded a copy of the school's official press release written after the Fox interviews. In it was a detailed description of the drawing and a defense of the five-day suspension.

The press release claims that the drawing "is merely two stick figures, one with a helmet and one with no markings. The figure with the helmet had a pistol and a knife and is attacking the other figure. It is quite graphic and bloody. Moreover, above the head of the stick figure is the name of another student at the Middle School, not the Taliban."

The language continues to discredit Switzer's testimony of patriotism: "It is quite evident that the drawing depicts one student attacking another student, who is named. It is not an attack by an American soldier against the enemy, as represented by the offending student."

A defense of the punishment continues, explaining that the suspension could have been 10 days, but was reduced to five. It says that "in the post-Columbine, post-9/11 era we must be very careful, address all threats, and protect all students. That is the message we attempted to convey to the news media, and the message that should be addressed to all parents, students, and interested parties. The young man in question may think this was a joke or a prank, but actions of this nature are taken very seriously and there are consequences that must be accepted."

Information like this is important factual meat for making value judgments. Whether it changes minds or not, this press release should have been produced and published prior to national media coverage to hit the issue head-on. Dr. Robert Lyster, Associate Professor of Communications

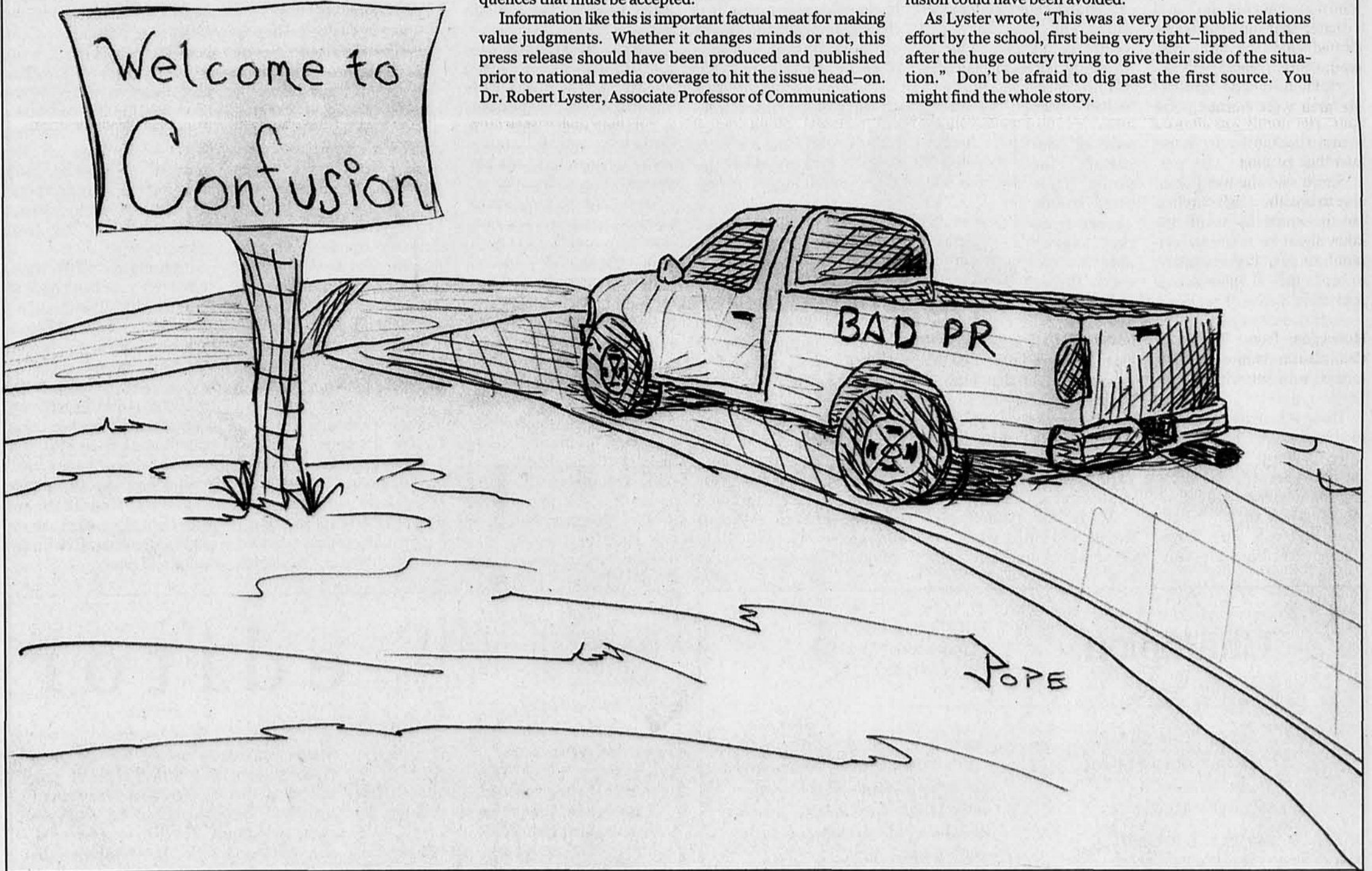
at Liberty University, submitted a written statement concerning the issue: "Once the parents made the incident public, the school should have been very proactive in explaining exactly why the student was suspended. This should have included making the picture available so the audience could make their own decision concerning whether or not the picture was appropriate."

It does not take a public relations professional to know that side swiping the issue is an ineffective way to deal with conflict, especially in media relationships. Kelpsh should especially understand the necessity of an active crisis communications plan based on his past run-ins with national attention.

Freedomforum.com reports that in 1998, a 5-year-old kindergarten student in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. was stopped from distributing "Jesus loves the little children" pencils and candy canes to his classmates. The child's goodies were also confiscated. The Rutherford Institute, a religious freedom organization based in Charlottesville, Va., defended the child's actions in a legal battle. In 2002, the school won when a federal judge ruled that the barring of the child's religious philanthropy was in order. Reportedly happy with the ruling was then superintendent of the Egg Harbor school Leonard Kelpsh. "The courts have more clearly defined what we can and can't do as far as religious freedom in the schools," he said.

Immediate response and clarity are vital for optimal public impression and positive repute. Fox should not be blamed for the confusion surrounding this case. Neither complete information nor clarification was thrust onto the stage when the media spotlight found Tinton Falls Middle School. Instead, they lagged behind as subsequent after effects. Had the school given clear information to Fox in the first place on the particulars of the suspension, much confusion could have been avoided.

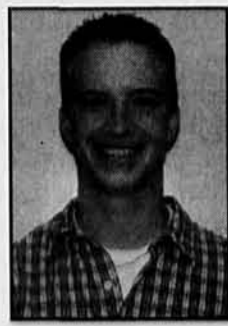
As Lyster wrote, "This was a very poor public relations effort by the school, first being very tight-lipped and then after the huge outcry trying to give their side of the situation." Don't be afraid to dig past the first source. You might find the whole story.



SpeakUp: I want to be remembered as the guy/girl who...



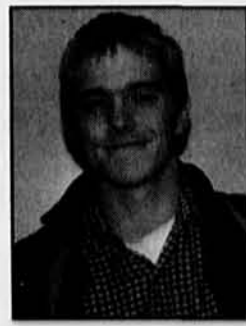
"...Always put God first in her life and embodied all of the Proverbs 31 characteristics of a loving Christian woman."
—Erin Stevenson, Fr. Clayton, N.C.



"...Was friendly to everyone and was always there for his friends."
—Jeff Thomas, So. Woodstown, N.J.



"...Could rise above circumstances with joy, strength of character, and unwavering faithfulness to God."
—Kate Canfield, Fr. Raleigh, N.C.



"...Took a bath in the fountain with battle floaties and a long back-scrubbing brush."
—Christopher Seal, Jr. Cicero, Ind.



"...Impacted the world for Jesus Christ, was a friend to the friendless, and told the hopeless where they could find hope."
—Larkin Hill, Jr. Woodbridge, Va.



"...Made a difference in the world."
—Keith Post, Sr. Prince George, Va.

Commentary

'The Reagans' fails to accurately portray a great American hero

While it is generally acknowledged that "you can't change history," that won't prevent CBS from trying when it airs its new mini-series, "The Reagans" later this month. And while the network can't succeed in changing the reality of the past - that's safely out of reach - it can succeed in changing something nearly as significant, namely, the remembrance of the past.

Though the producers of the film claim it gives a balanced portrayal of Reagan's presidency, many who have previewed the script indicate otherwise. The New York Times reports that the series depicts Ronald and Nancy Reagan in a largely negative light and expresses a "disapproving tone" in relation to Ronald's handling of his staff and Nancy's supposed meddling. The Times also points out that many of Reagan's key accomplishments are not to be found in the film, noting specifically the absence of both "the economic recovery [and] the creation of wealth during his administration."



jeremybroggi

Even more distressing, the writers took the liberty of creating situations and dialogue they admit never took place. In one scene for example, a disturbed and tearful Reagan wrestles with a feeling that he may be the antichrist, giving the impression that he was crazy religious fanatic. In another, Reagan declares rather callously in reference to those with AIDS, "They that live in sin shall die in sin." Of course, there is no evidence of either event taking place; they are merely assertions made by the scriptwriters to buttress their interpretations of Reagan and his views.

Overall, the focus of the series appears to be on historically questionable and inconsequential moments rather than on the momentous shifts that Reagan presided over. This is not surprising considering that the producers of the film, Neil Meron and Craig Zadan, as well as the actors playing the Reagans, James Brolin and Judy Davis, all admit to being politically liberal. Even so, it is disappoint-

ing that they take such a light view of history.

When Ronald Reagan took office in 1980, America was floundering. Communism was growing around the world. Inflation and unemployment were at record highs, confidence and morale were at an all time low. None of this deterred Reagan however; he tackled each problem with incredible commitment and vigor. He began an arms buildup that broke the back of the Soviet Union and brought down the Iron Curtain. He forced congress to pass enormous tax cuts that prompted the largest peacetime expansion of our economy in history. And more than any other man in recent memory, he helped regular Americans believe in themselves and in their country again.

None of these accomplishments were the result of a mean, dense, forgetful, bumbling fool who happened to be in the right place at the right time. Rather, they were the result of a principled and thinking man strongly committed to the outworking of his core ideology and courageous enough to see it through. The effort to portray something less is nothing more than an attempt at revisionist history. Sadly, that is the goal of "The Reagans."

Being 'Jesus Freaks' at home and abroad

Everyone wants to be a "Jesus Freak." Among Christian circles this has become the cool slang. DC Talk's timeless song rings out across the nation as some- what of a Christian anthem of our day. But if we really think about that term, "Jesus Freak," do we really know what we're saying? To most people it has become a cliché for someone who is extreme in their faith, and a lot of times it is related to becoming a martyr for Jesus' sake.



elizabethspach

easy to get involved in world-wide missions here, we cannot neglect what is right next-door. So many times we take on the mindset that unless we are serving God in the jungles of Africa, we aren't really serving Him at all. Realistically, God has not called everyone onto the mission field. While we should get involved with missions in

one way or another, whether through financial support, prayers, or actually going, we are responsible to reach out to those around us right now. We cannot forsake the lost and dying community that is right under our noses.

The book *Jesus Freaks* was compiled in 1999 to make the youth more aware of the missions effort around the world and the martyrs who have given their lives to further the cause of Christ. That is what the Christian life is all about: the Great Commission. Jesus said in Matthew 28, "Go into all the world and make disciples of all men. . . and I will be with you always, even until the end of the age." His promise to stick with us as we share His love with the world gives our lives a purpose. This awesome calling demands that we take the light of salvation to the entire world, surrendering our very lives.

One way God calls His people to forsake all and pick up His cross is through missions. Liberty University offers the greatest missions opportunities of any other Christian university. Light Ministries hosts several mission trips across the world every year for any interested student. Light gives students the chance to experience what the mission field is all about. I went to Argentina with Light last year, and it was truly a life-changing experience.

There are also ways to get plugged into missions through the Campus Missions Fellowship, and through witnessing outreaches by Campus Crusade, YouthQuest, and other organizations. The possibilities we have within our reach here at Liberty are amazing.

One thing causes room for concern, however. While it is

Many Christians are questioned because they have not decided to become full-time missionaries. Sometimes I walk away from services completely discouraged and think there is something wrong with me because I want to be a news reporter for Fox one day. Then I have to remind myself that the great commission says to take the Word of God to all men, even those at Fox.

Never doubt your individual calling. No matter what career avenue God takes each of us down, we can do the work of a missionary. The homeless people living in the crowded cities of America need Jesus as much as the oppressed Chinese people do. Whether you are scarfing down slimy bugs in the Amazon, or working with slimy bugs in a large corporation in New York City, you can fulfill the call of the great commission.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." There are all kinds of people to minister to in this world. Whether you are called to England, Kenya, Korea, or the U.S.A., as a doctor, reporter, politician, or preacher, have faith that God is with you always. Being a "Jesus Freak" is more than what we do, it is who we are. If our hearts are in the right place with God, we can be extreme for Him in any calling and career.

Immoral television programming: vice targeting a young generation

In the conservative circles of America, television is often considered immoral, liberal, and void of principle. Many Christian evangelists and youth pastors will cite specific television episodes to further prove their point. During my high school years, I would sit in chapel waiting to hear the predictable commentary from the speakers. Their indictments would focus on the worthlessness of most television sitcoms. Unfortunately, I would balk at the message and then proceed to deem myself unaffected by the subtle yet very powerful devaluation of morality that existed in most of the popular programs.

Upon entering college, I became very busy with school, sports, and social events. I went from watching 10 or 20 hours of television a week to maybe fitting in two or three. College has been a matur-

ing process in so many ways. I have made many decisions about my convictions and how they will relate to my life. One of these decisions is that television provides very little in the way of education or virtue. Only after being absent from the TV am I able to see the threat inherently associated with the various broadcasts. Especially dangerous is the fact that a large portion of the modern programs target teenagers and young adults. Sex, drugs, and violence are pervading themes in various reality shows and sitcoms.

Many Americans were deeply saddened when the actor and comedian John

Ritter recently died of a heart attack. However, his latest television show is a clear example of the assault on morality that is taking place in our culture. The



benhastings

Washington Times published an excerpt from the show that aired on September 30. In an episode of *A B C 's* "Eight Simple Rules," the mother, who is a nurse, has been recruited to substitute-teach on sex education. She says: "Tomorrow, I have to talk about contraception, and the only thing the school will let me discuss is abstinence.... I just think it's irresponsible to say that abstinence is the only option. I see teenagers at

the hospital every day, and they're in trouble already. They need to know about safe sex."

The next day, abstinence education is caricatured as a cheesy black and white videotape: "And thus Woody leaves, knowing with great pride that this is another night he did not have sex." The children laughed at the tape. One of the boys added, with crude sexual reference, that male who would stick with abstinence must be homosexual.

Television is not all bad. Numerous programs exist to educate and simply entertain. The problem occurs when television shows promote ideas and principles that are contrary to morality and pure living. Today's teens see enough drunkenness, homosexuality, and premarital sex in the real world. The last thing that they need is a source that promotes those vices.

The Liberty Champion

1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24506
(434) 582-2124

Faculty Adviser Deborah Huff
Ad Director Elaine Fleming

Editor in Chief Ben Eppard

SECTION EDITORS

News Jake Belue
Asst. News Ashley Haygood
Opinion Jason Pope
Life! Amy Jordan
Sports Andrew Martin
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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Send letters to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, Box 2000, Lynchburg, VA 24506 or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.

The Champion is available online at: www.liberty.edu/info/champion.

letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Belue,

After reading your article on the origins of Halloween, I found myself grinding my teeth in a slow simmer.

First of all, let me say that I do not disagree with what appears to be your main premise—that Halloween is a day with its roots firmly planted in pagan ritual. The druids (who were not limited to Ireland, by the way) held the turning of the seasons to be a sacred time, and the ending of summer with the prospect of a long winter was naturally associated with death. In your article you claim the "Druids used to march around chanting 'owee-oh' and lighting each other on fire." Leaving aside your attempt at humor, your facts are wrong. The Druids were rumored to offer human sacrifice (www.jeremiahproject.com/halloween.html), but the chosen victims were criminals or those thought to be possessed (www.wilstar.net/holidays/hallowen.htm). May I remind you that burning has been a favored punishment among Christians as well for religious dissidents (The Book of Martyrs, John Foxe).

Secondly, I object to your characterizations of the Irish. True, the Potato Famine brought floods of immigrants to the United

States, and these people brought their Halloween customs with them, but your statement that the Irish founded "happy hour" and "the midnight brawl" is both irrelevant and untrue. The Irish have a reputation as heavy drinkers, but drunkenness is endemic to humanity, not any one nationality. I don't know your ancestry, but I'm pretty sure I could find something derogatory to throw in your face about your origins.

Thirdly, do you object to celebrating Christmas? How about Easter? Both of these were born out of paganism. Christmas was the church's answer to pagan solstice festivals. (Ever wonder why we kiss under mistletoe? It was sacred to the fertility goddess Frigga.) The very name of Easter can be traced back through Ostara, Ishtar, and Astarte, or Ashtoreth. (This last name should sound familiar; the fertility goddess Ashtoreth was a recurrent stumbling block to the Hebrews.) (www.logon.org/english/s/p235.html). If you are going to be consistent about rejecting any holiday with pagan origins, you will have to reject these as well.

Sincerely,
Bethany Badger

picks of the week

- **11/06 Passion In Concert**
Passion, a leading worship group, will be leading a worship experience in the Vines Center on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased at the radio station or the Student Life office.
- **11/07 "Confederates in the Attic"**
Come participate in the Civil War Seminar held on Friday at 7 p.m. in Fine Arts Room 101. Robert Hodges, a renowned writer, consultant and film producer will be speaking on his latest book, *The Unfinished War*.

fun fact of the week

Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.

<http://www.opey.com/funfacts.html>

Life!

Get connected with Commuter Prayer Groups

By Laura Beaton
REPORTER

"A lot of students that live off-campus check-out spiritually. We are trying to keep the commuter students spiritually connected," said Charles Hughes, campus pastor and overseer of the commuter prayer force. Commuter students are beginning to form their own prayer groups as a way to hold each other accountable and get their spiritual needs met.

Living off campus can make students feel like they are no longer a part of the spiritual community at Liberty University. Many commuter students become busy with work and school and they don't feel like they have time to be involved in any ministries. "Our goal is to have a prayer group meet everyday of the week at various times of the day so commuters can easily find a group that fits in their schedule," said Hughes.

Each week commuter students are receiving an email from pastor Hughes asking if they have any prayer requests. "There has been a surge of interest and students always have something or someone in their life that needs prayer," said Hughes. Commuter students will have the opportunity to be cared for and prayed for by being involved in a commuter prayer group.

The commuter prayer groups provide students the chance to make new friends and fellowship with other believers. One of the prayer groups is led by Michelle Poluikis, secretary for military affairs. This is an all female prayer group. Some fun activities this group will be doing in the future is making beaded jewelry, and Christmas ornaments, and scrap books. "I want the commuter students to feel like they are part of the campus and to feel like they have some sort of connection and support within the University," said Poluikis.

It is not uncommon for girls within Poluikis's group to stop by her office in Military Affairs and ask for prayer or just a friendly conversation. "We try to be there for each other," said, Poluikis. Any female students who are interested in joining this group can call Poluikis at 582-7554 or email her at mpoluikis@liberty.edu.

The commuter prayer groups are already off to a great start, but in order for them to be even more effective it is going to take more student involvement and support. Commuter students who feel distant and unattached to the Liberty community now have the chance to get involved in the commuter prayer force.

Students who want to be a part of this new and exciting ministry can go to the campus pastor's office and find out when the groups are meeting or how to form a new prayer group.

As of now, there are a few men and women groups that meet throughout the week, but pastor Hughes would like to see that number grow. "My goal is to try to get every commuter plugged into a prayer group and have them prayed for everyday," said Hughes. This is a ministry that is in its early stages, and it will be exciting to see what lies ahead.

"Lights, Camera... Coffeehouse" takes LU students to the movies

By Brit Engbrecht
REPORTER

Lights, camera, action: This year's Coffeehouse made Liberty students feel like they were at the movie theater. The inviting red carpet and limo parked at the entrance gave it an awards show kind of feel.

The tables were decorated with popcorn buckets and Coffeehouse programs to aid in the feel of being at the movie theater. A humorous silent film and smoke engulfing the stage welcomed the students. There were even lights along the stage like the lights in the aisles of the movie theaters.

"The decorations were the finishing touches. Student Life went through a lot of work to put stuff together, all the way down to the little Twizzlers ribboned around the buckets of popcorn," Freshman Carrie Whitten commented.

"There was something that appealed to everyone. It was relaxing, humorous, and entertaining—something different," added Whitten.

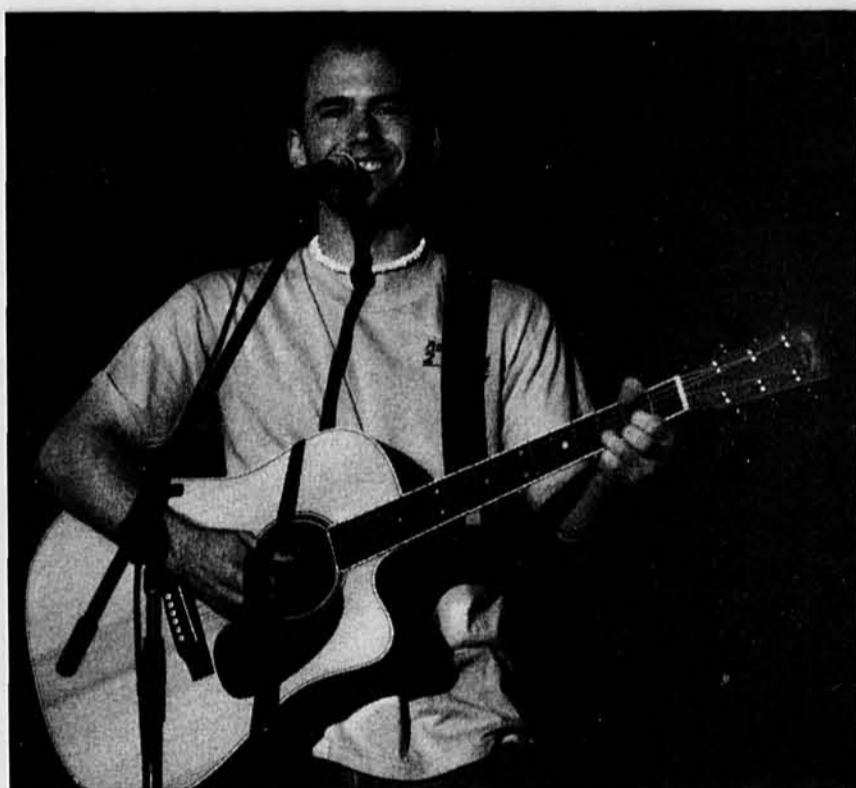
The crowd went wild when the opening musical act, a cover

of Evanescence's "Bring Me to Life" started. Matt Wright and band Outspoken, did an awesome job.

The Trey Sheneman Trio performed a spoof on a popular choreographer and his protégé, and as the trio slid across the stage the audience stood up cheering and clapping. This was unlike any other act seen this year.

Bryan McCanna, a sophomore from Madison Heights said, "This was the first one [Coffeehouse] I have been to and I am definitely coming back. Awesome!"

John Powell and band, otherwise known as Speaking of Yesterday, performed "Dispatch." This slow, but steady song had a Jack Johnson feel with its acoustic guitars and musical voices. Angelica with Clear Confusion performed a cover of Lauryn Hill's version of Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly." With its raps and old school R&B beats, this act received many cheers.



SUSAN WHITLEY

CROWD PLEASER—Lee Steele puts his views on dating and the movies to music in a laugh-out-loud, crowd pleasing song.

With Liberty's "no lighter policy" the crowd raised cell phones and all the girls went wild when Justin Snyder and Brandon Neal performed a Switchfoot cover of "My Only Hope" from the "A Walk to Remember" Soundtrack. As the blue, green, and white lights of the audience's swaying cell phones filled the Schilling Center, so did Justin and Brandon's guitars and voices.

Kent Walter performed a Rufus Wainwright cover of Jeff

Buckley's "Hallelujah". Audience members remembered hearing this song in Disney's "Shrek."

"As I was sitting there I felt like I was watching stars in the making. I had no idea there was so much talent at our school," commented Andrea Miller, a sophomore from Forest, Va.

There were more musical acts at this year's Coffeehouse, but that didn't stop Mike Jett Productions from showing their humorous silent movie "A Boy and His Scooter" depicting a guy trained to kill another guy on a scooter.

Karen Knowles' strong voice carried over the crowd when she sang "Anytime," a song written by Christiana Aguilera. Knowles' fire red hair and black outfit made her performance a hit.

Leah Young, a senior from North Carolina said, "[Coffeehouse] was great. Karen Knowles rocked the house!"

Jake Holeman and band performed Coldplay's "Clocks." Holeman did an awesome job on the piano with this melodic song and made it a big hit.

"The merging of guitar, piano and vocals sounded amazing," said student life worker Ashley Haygood.

Another big hitter was Lee Steele who brought comedy

relief to the tired audience with his cute movie song.

Jacob Kaetterhenry, a sophomore from Ft. Lauderdale, said, "I thought Coffeehouse was really good."

"It was everything I hoped for," said first timer Kendall Looney, a sophomore from Lynchburg.

Other talents that performed at this year's Coffeehouse included the Brady Rose Quartet, Nathan, Juan, and Friends, the Cody-Danny Trio, and Justin Fields and band.

"It was a really good opportunity for people to come out after curfew and have a good time," commented Nate Sheasby, who performed the last act at Coffeehouse.

"I thought there was a lot of talent this year. It had a lot more variety," said sophomore Brittany Wade. "Everyone seemed like they had a good time and was into it," Wade added.

"We wished there were more skits this year, but more than 50 percent of the acts in the show had performed for the first time," said Nic Carver the host of Coffeehouse.

Carver is encouraging those interested in showing off their talent to try-out for Valentine's Day Coffeehouse when the time comes.



JENNIFER SUNSHINE

GETTIN' JIGGY WITH IT—Trey Sheneman busts a move at Coffeehouse on Friday night, eliciting a standing ovation from the crowd.

amyjordan

Discovering your unknown riches

There's something absolutely wonderful about the beach. I love the beach. If I could live at the beach, I would. No matter how often I go, I never get sick of being there.

You may be wondering why I'm dwelling on the beach when it's November, and we're all whipping out our scarves and mittens for the quickly cooling temperatures. A couple of weekends ago I had the chance to spend a few days at the Outer Banks, in Corolla, N.C. For the past couple of years, a friend and I get to join my family for a weekend at the beach in October.

While the weather is definitely not as beautiful as when my family goes in the summer, it's still the beach. Whether I'm wearing a tank-top or a hooded sweatshirt, I still love being by the water. There simply isn't any escape like going to the beach.

For me, one of the most wonderful things about being at the beach is the time away from all the other distractions

in my world. When there aren't a thousand other things readily accessible for me to be doing, it forces me to slow down a little bit.

I have to confess that I am the queen of multitasking. I can't handle just sitting still. For me, torture is sitting and watching a movie without having something else to be doing while I'm watching it. There's always a list of things that needs to be accomplished in my head, and the whole concept of just sitting and relaxing is not an easy one for me. Thus, my beach trips are usually much needed, especially at this point in the semester.

My favorite spot at our beach house is the window seat in my bedroom. I love to open the door to our

room that leads out to the ocean, so I can hear the sound of the waves while I sit and read, or write in my journal, or whatever. It's always so incredibly good for me to have a chance just to be by myself. Whenever I actually take time to be alone, it always surprises me how good it is for me. Henry David Thoreau once said, "I have never found a companion so companionable as solitude," and I think that he was on to something.

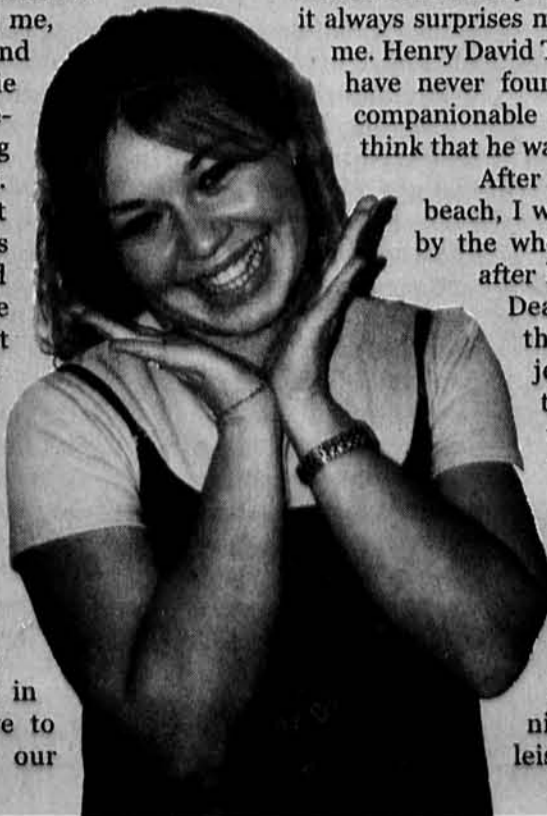
After returning from the beach, I was further intrigued by the whole idea of solitude after hearing a lecture by Dean Sarah Jones on that particular subject. One of the things she mentioned was the fact that a little bit of solitude every now and then is a necessity, not an option. I have always thought of solitude as something that's nice when I have the leisure time for it, not

something that I take time to do in the midst of my crazy schedule. But after my recent visit to the beach, I've realized how much more sane of a person I am when I take time for myself to get refocused.

This week, in the midst of all of the stuff that you have going on, take a few minutes and do something for yourself—by yourself. Maybe a trip to the beach isn't an option right now, but you can still go for a walk, or lock the door to your room and spend some time with just you and God. Grab a cup of coffee, or hot chocolate if you'd rather, and take a few minutes just to get your thoughts straight. Write in your journal, or just have a heart-to-heart with God.

Dean Jones quoted Richard Foster as saying, "We must go away from people so that we can be truly present when we are with people." If we truly want to be men and women who make a difference in the lives of others, we need to have a firm grasp on who we are and what we're doing.

Someone once made the statement that, "loneliness is the poverty of self; solitude is the richness of self." Don't just isolate yourself. Take time to develop the person that God has designed you to be. Discover your unknown riches.



Do You Know



ERIK DRYLIE

Major: English and History

Hometown: Hilton Head, S.C.

Favorite Verse: Colossians 3:1-2

Accomplishment I am most proud of: Reading *Pamela*.

If I could have anyone in the world stop by for a visit it would be: Michael Jordan

Most treasured material possession: My car

What I do in my free time: I play a lot of basketball and read for class.

Favorite movie: Dead Poet's Society

First thing I notice about people: Their eyes

If I could have any singer or group play for my birthday it would be: Dave Matthews Band

My ideal Saturday would be: Sleeping until noon, then playing basketball, and then just hanging out with friends

If I could only eat at one restaurant for the rest of my life I would want it to be: Outback Steakhouse

Favorite Books: *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C.S. Lewis

Where I see myself 10 years after Liberty: Ideally, I'd like to be teaching at a college.

What I look for in a girl: A good smile, intelligent, and a great personality.

Favorite Superhero: Batman, because he has all the cool gadgets.

What I'm most grateful for: My family.

—Compiled by Amy Jordan, LIFE! editor

'La Bohème' hits center stage

By Annamarie McCoy
REPORTER

The world-renowned opera by Giacomo Puccini comes to LU with much anticipation from both director and actors. This famous opera, "La Bohème," has been number one on Broadway and has been all around the world.

Set in the 1930s in Paris, the opera depicts four young men living in an apartment together dealing with life and love. A painter, poet, philosopher, and musician, who have little sense when it comes to money and base many of their decisions on their emotions. The opera focuses on the beautiful love story between Rodolfo the poet and Mimi, the lovely young seamstress who lives downstairs.

All four acts of the opera are going to be performed in Italian, its original language. There will be subtitles in English for those who have an Italian vocabulary consisting solely of the words "spaghetti" and "pizza." Many students who are involved in this

opera have been taking an opera workshop under the direction of Dr. Wayne Kompelien. The star cast members include Jerry Island, David Forbes, Joshua Philpot, Adam Short, Thomas Peace, Hannah Byrd, Holly Sydnor, David Diamond, and Sean Purdie.

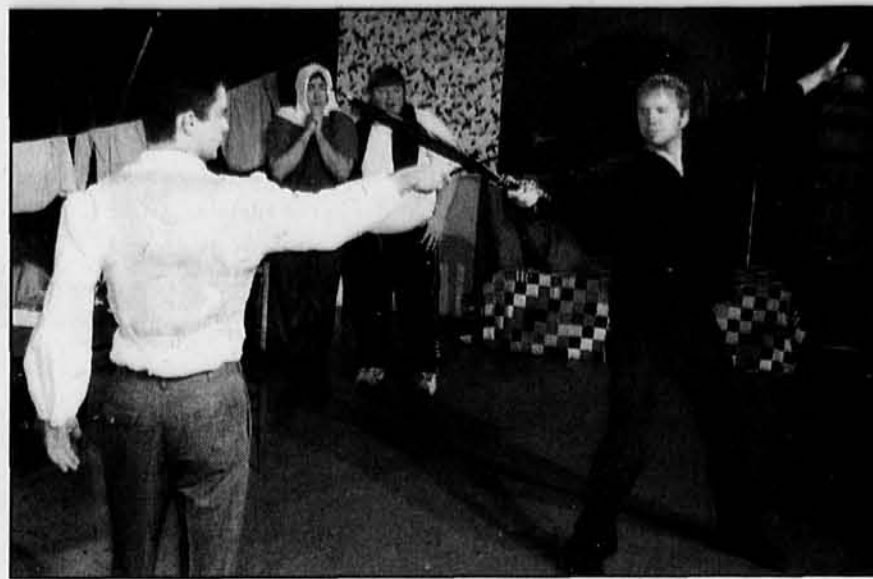
Auditions were held which brought in people outside of the LU community. Children will be used to set the tone for this moving, emotional opera.

Hannah Byrd, a junior history major who plays the role of Mimi, said, "It is not an every day experience, a lot of people overlook the beauty and original language. This is a great educational experience."

Josh Philpot, a senior vocal performance major who acts as Colline, said, "La Bohème is considered one of the finest, if not the most popular, operas ever written. It has truly been a pleasure not only learning this beautiful music, but also putting it to stage."

Many students don't find the true art in opera, and some say it is hard to relate to and understand. David Forbes, a senior youth major, has been involved with musical stage work since first coming to Liberty. Forbes, who plays Marcello in the opera commented, "Coming to college I had the same misconceptions about opera that most people still have. I have since learned that opera is an incredible experience, and also very entertaining."

Liberty has not performed an opera in full Italian since 1997, since only two acts of



ON GUARD— Adam Short and Joshua Philpot duel in "La Bohème."



A TOAST TO THE AUDIENCE—Actors David Forbes, Jerry Island, and Joshua Philpot sing to the audience with glasses raised.

LU Student Impacting Others

By Ashley Haygood
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The Great Commission isn't just a request, it's a command, and summer break provides us the opportunity to fulfill this great calling.

Junior David Gossett took this command to heart and spent his summer not only changing lives across the world, but changing and growing his own heart for God.

For two weeks this summer, Gossett along with 24 other members from his home church in Huntsville, Ala., traveled the globe to a small city of about 800 in the Ukraine. "Out of 800 in the village, only 14 were believers." The small number of Christians in the village provided the team various ways to illustrate God's love. "Our church had bought a building for a small congregation that had been meeting in a house. The building needed a lot of repairs, so the men focused on that." Along with construction, part of the team, including Gossett, led a

Bible study and played games with the kids in the village.

"What affected me most was being able to experience people having the gospel for the first time in their lives. Going there makes you so thankful for being able to know Jesus at an early age," said Gossett.

After his return to the states, David attended Promise Keepers in Louisville, KY, "That was just a huge challenge to become the man of God the Lord wants me to be. It was neat to see God working on men and them just breaking before the Lord." Promise Keepers challenges men of faith to become the strong spiritual leaders that God has called them to be, "It pushed me to become the man of God, the spiritual leader, I need to be for my future family. What a huge responsibility."

Later that summer Gossett headed up to Atlanta, Ga. for Passion on the Hill led by Louis Giglio. "God's presence was definitely there." Passion also challenged David, "It reinforced the fact that I'm supposed to be

reflecting God's glory; showing Christ to others through me."

"This summer was just a great time to focus on God and grow deeper in my relationship with Him. Students should get involved in short-term missions projects, it will definitely change their hearts and the Lord will speak to them."

Open summers are few and far between after college. These summers are a gift from God to use as He pleases, whether that be working, interning or traveling to foreign countries. Missions trips are available everywhere and you

never know when God is waiting to change your heart,

"I can't really explain the feeling you get when you're impacting someone for Christ half way around the world; I think I got the better end of the deal."



MAKING BUNNY EARS—David Gossett spent a part of his summer leading a Bible study for children.

Shaun Groves: Shedding light on Twilight

By Richard Gretskey
REPORTER

"Twilight" is the sophomore project of Dove Award Nominee Shaun Groves. Groves said that his second CD's title is an appropriate one

for the theme of the record as a whole. The third song on the CD bears the same name as the disk's title but the entire project is interwoven with the same theme.

On his website, Groves states that the "theme of choosing

midnight or dawn runs throughout this record. I do have a choice which desire I will feed—the desire to please me or the desire to please God.

"See You" is one song in particular which reflects the idea of twilight. The song portrays God's presence as seen in creation as well as how He uses that creation to get His people's attention.

The 10th song on "Twilight" is "God of Us." The lyrics talk about how the same God who can be seen in all creation came down as one of us to save us because of His intense love.

"Blank Page," "One of Those Days" and "To be Honest" speak of the flawed hearts of men. Groves proposes that God fixes each of His children's heart when they rely on Him.

Groves sings of a strong ministry he

has to a non-believer in "I Love You." The message of the song is that Groves will love his friend unconditionally and he implies that it is because of the love of Christ in his life.

Much of "Twilight" was written while he was on the road ministering to college-age students. During these sporadic concerts and tours, Groves had much time to spend alone with God.

"My second CD is about what God has taught me in my alone times," Groves said.

Through this time alone with God, Groves also wrote "Need You More," "Jesus" and "Here I Am." These songs tell of the devotion that we desire to have for God and how we should live out that devotion.

Despite the extended amount of time alone, there was one major downfall of being on the

road so much. That downfall was being away from his wife. This longing love is expressed in "Without You," a song written for his wife. The song tells of a man who wants nothing more than to be with the woman who he loves, no matter if he loses everything.

Groves' second CD is a mix of contemporary styles and worshipful prose that gets to the heart of the love that we should have for God.

Some songs express this love in manner of praise to God, and some in humble adoration for who God is and who we aren't. The majority of the songs ask God to help his people live out the two greatest commandments of loving God, and loving others. The album is a challenge to the believer to live to know God more and to make Him known to His people.



Two records fall during game against CSU

Aaron DeBerry etched his name in the LU record books with his dominant defensive performance against CSU.

In the 17-6 win for the Flames, DeBerry added two more records to his repertoire. He became the all-time Liberty sack leader with 19.5 for his career and he also set the single game record with four sacks in the contest.

He started the season fourth on the all-time list with 16 sacks. That total put him three behind career leader Rodney Degrate, who played for the Flames from 1994 until 1997.

With his four sacks against the Buccaneers he added to the .5 sacks from the first eight games, which gave DeBerry the record on the road.

His game total of four sacks passed the previous

record of three sacks in a game, held by many players. The latest was Jason Wells, who tied the record in 2000 against Wingate.

Also in the game, running back Dre Barnes achieved elite status when he broke the 1,000-yard mark for the second straight year.

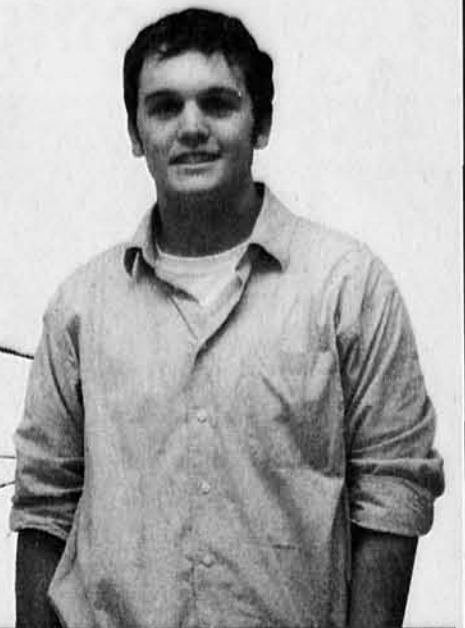
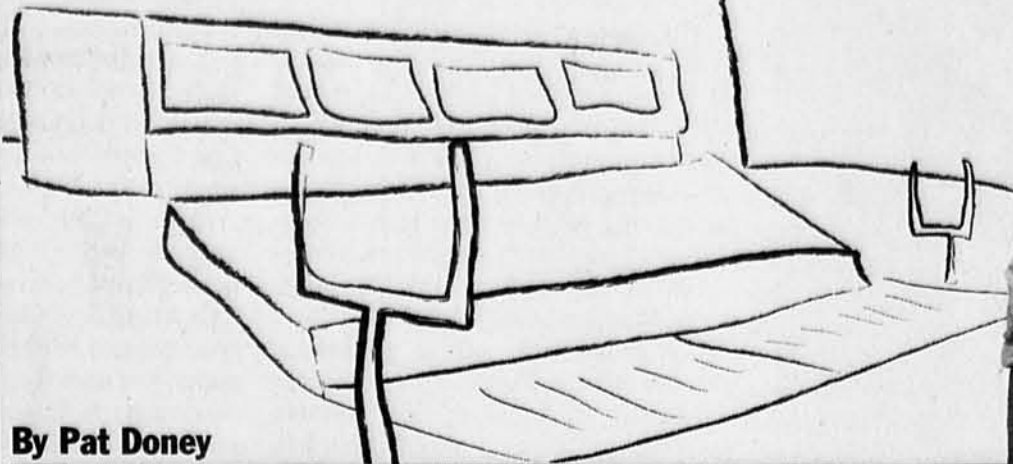
He carded 153 yards against the Bucs defense, giving him a season total of 1,017.

Last season, Barnes set the all-time Liberty record for yards gained on the ground in a season with 1,304. He needs a shade under 300 more yards in the final three games to break that record.

Already the freshman and sophomore leader in rushing yards, he can add junior to that list if he can average around 55 yards in the final three games. Barnes needs 166 more yards for that title.

The Bottom

LINE



By Pat Doney

When October pushes November, there is only one word that could describe the atmosphere here on campus: dull. There are no fat men in red suits, and no one really likes talking about the Pilgrim's corn-fest with Squanto anyway (although I do like stuffing). Described by many as "the longest stretch of the year," there are a select few with that extra twinkle in their eye right about now. The die-hard football fans of the world not only like this cold, almost depressing time of year; they look forward to it.

Now I'm not just talking about traditional D-1, free stuff, pay to play football. I'm talking about the real fans of the game. I mean the guys that on a Saturday afternoon, meet at the field and beat on each other for two hours. Take Dave Short from Dorm 23-2. Here's a guy that while diving for a thrown ball, cracks his dome against an air conditioner, and gets 10 stitches across the forehead. Now why would he do that?

Dave understands what is important in life. In his mind, it's not just he and his friends throwing the ball around. He becomes no less than Terrell Owens (sharpie included at no extra charge), cutting across the mid-

dle to score the game-winner. And that thwacking he took? That's the perfect opportunity to get one of those mythical scars that girls supposedly love. To Dave, it's a chance to lose himself in the dream that most LU guys had at least once in their childhood.

My good friend Aaron Gaston is one of these die-hards. Just about every other weekend, we get a knocking on the door with his exclamation of, "Football!" That's all that needs to be said. That's when it all begins.

While walking this seemingly endless march to battle last Saturday, I began to get intimidated by Aaron. The expression on his face gave the look of, "I've trained too hard to lose today." I began imagining him running wind sprints and lifting for hours, all with a day like this in mind. Although devastated by the loss, I'm proud to tell you that Aaron has begun eating again and has not bitten anyone since Thursday. A loss to "friends" is an experience that can stick with a guy for days. It's a traumatic event, and one that should be handled as such.

Outdoor brutality games are not the only way these die-hards quench their desires for this obsession. The guys on my hall invited me at the beginning of

the year to join their fantasy football league on Yahoo. I was interested, being a fan of the game, and figured that I knew enough to get by and be competitive. What I didn't realize was that a victory in fantasy football to a Liberty student is similar to Charles Billingsley and a microphone: they always seem to find each other, and once they do, they give their best imitation of the "grip of death," and never let it go.

Joe Eskridge, my SLD and a great guy, is one of the members of this league. He, although not knowing when his next Church Ministries test is, can tell you what Dominic Davis' (a backup running back for the Houston Texans) yards per carry were last week, and what the Baltimore Ravens third-string tailback rushed for his senior year of college ball.

So you see, football, although tolerated in various ways, is special here at LU. It almost brings out the kid in the average twenty-year old. There is just something unique in defeating an opponent that lives only three doors down on your hall, and not allowing him to live it down for weeks. That something is what makes every true player at heart (myself included) get out of bed, and do it all again next weekend.

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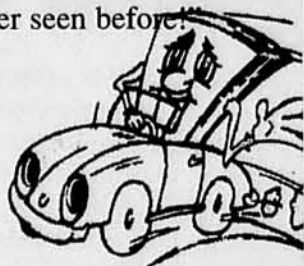
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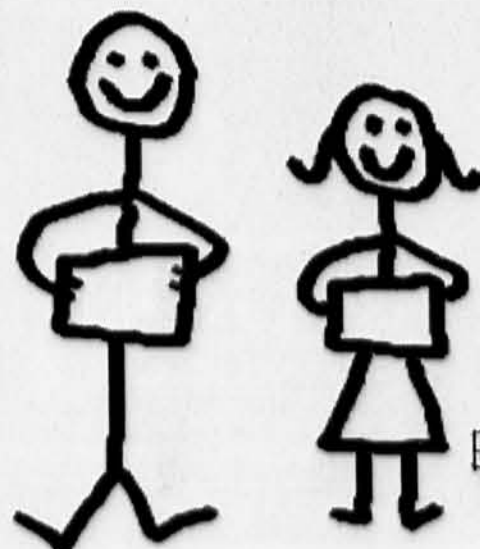
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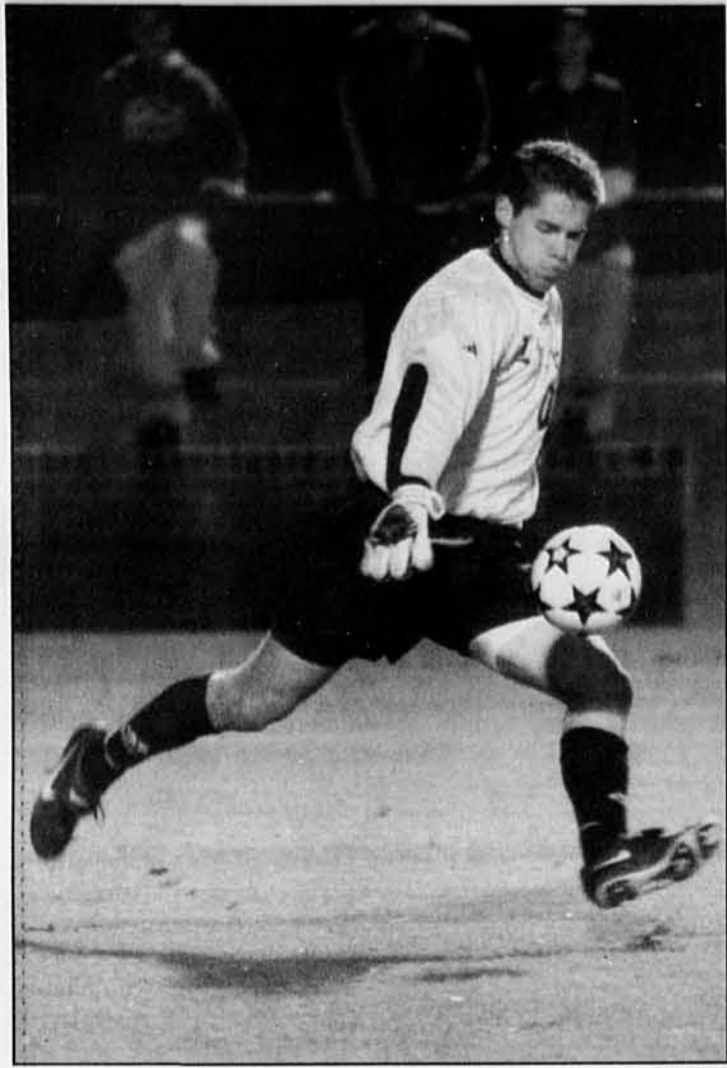
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KJ Sabotchick: Shotblocking keeper leads the squad



JEN SUNSHINE

THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE—Goalkeeper K.J. Sabotchick is the last person opponents have to try and beat when playing the Flames. With his senior experience, it is not an easy task for anyone.

Allie Kearns
SPORTS REPORTER

The modern-day collegiate athlete faces many challenges on a day-to-day basis. Gruelling practices, risk of injury and impossibly demanding schedules are just a few that top the list. Although faced with many trials, most never have to cope with a medical condition such as asthma, something that has the potential to make every breath a struggle.

K.J. Sabotchick, senior goalkeeper for the Liberty Flames' men's soccer team, has been facing this obstacle since he was 10 years old. Asthma has kept him out of a lot of things and has always been a difficult issue. Although one could never tell by the way he tends to the net, it is an impairment that he is still forced to deal with today.

Sabotchick grew up in Elysburg, Pa. He was raised by his parents with his younger sister. The Sabotchick family is a very active family, always on the go.

Every season meant a different sport that the Sabotchick's were involved in. From second grade through high school, Sabotchick focused on playing basketball. It wasn't until the latter part of his high school years that he decided to play soccer year-round and focus most of his energies on the soccer field.

Sabotchick's parents are both the biggest inspiration and support in his life. His father, Kevin, was always the assistant coach on the teams

Sabotchick would play for and was a good role model and example for him to follow.

Sabotchick's soccer career began at the early age of five years old, participating in recreational youth leagues that friends encouraged him to become a part of.

Since making the decision to solely focus on soccer, Sabotchick has made quite an impact out on the field. During his high school days, Sabotchick was a four-time captain, defensive most valuable player, and named to the second team All-Conference as a senior. At Liberty, his playing credentials continue to be impressive. Sabotchick is a good shot blocker who has had valuable game experience. This season one of his best yet, allowing only 12 goals in 11 games played.

As a senior, he understands the way the team operates and recognizes his role on the squad this season. "I have a great defense in front of me. The more I communicate to the guys and step up, the better I'll be able to play. I want to be a consistent player. I want to be a good example on and off the field."

Sabotchick first heard about Liberty University by means of the admissions mailing, mass-produced and mailed to thousands of high school seniors every year. He then heard about Liberty's athletic programs through a friend and decided to make some serious inquiries about the school. "I talked to Coach Alder and he offered me a position on the team if I wanted it. He said

I should pray about it, so I did."

Sabotchick's teammates are unquestionably his favorite aspect of playing soccer at Liberty. "They are such a great bunch of guys. I have 20 brothers on campus and, it's like they're my family."

Sabotchick has no doubt had his fair share of memorable soccer moments, but one in particular sticks out in his mind. "It was my first shut-out at Campbell. It was our second game of the season and it was a tough one. Our defense played well and the offense and midfield kept on until we got a goal and held on to the lead to win."

When he's not blocking shots, Sabotchick is spending time with his fiancée Michelle Blair, whom he will marry in June of next year. A great deal of his time is also devoted to hitting the books and completing schoolwork.

Sabotchick is a biology major and has applied to medical schools, but is waiting to hear exactly where he has been accepted. In the future, he plans to study pediatrics and will pursue a career in soccer if God directs him there, which is something he is currently praying about.

Not only is Sabotchick an athlete and a dedicated student, but he is more importantly a Christian whose faith impacts the way he plays. "My faith definitely affects the way I play. I have to stay positive all the time, knowing that no matter what I've done on the field it is exactly what God wants to happen."

Golfers finish fall season with strong final tourney

Andrew Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

Flames golfers played lights out in the opening round, but slipped a bit on the final 18 to garner a second place finish in the Old Dominion/Seascape Invitational golf tournament.

They finished with a team stroke total of 578 for the two-day event, good enough for a tie with Wofford, but four behind tournament champion Virginia Commonwealth.

"Our guys played great for 27 holes," Flames coach Frank Landry said. "We lost our edge and faltered some coming in the final nine holes."

Led by sophomore Andrew Turner's first round 68, the Flames opened up a nine-stroke lead after day one of the 36-hole

event. Turner captured fourth place overall with a two-day stroke total of 141, three under par.

The Flames had three players shoot under par in the first round. Senior James Yoo was three-under, shooting a 69 and junior Joe Norman shot a one-under 71, which gave him a one-under par round.

After a great first day, the Flames suffered a bit of a letdown in the second round. With no golfer firing under-par on Tuesday, they were tracked down and passed by Virginia Commonwealth.

VCU shot a final-round team score of 285, 13 strokes better than Liberty's 298 total.

Turner once again paced the Flames, shooting a one-over par 73. Sophomore Jordan Mitchell shot a 74 on day two, two strokes worse than his Monday total of even par 72.

Yoo finished the tournament with an even-par 144 total.

It was the final tournament of the semester for the Flames. They now look ahead to the spring season where they hope to build upon the successes of the fall.

In every tournament, each team "counts" their top four player's scores, giving them their tournament total based on these individual scores.

The Liberty fall 2003 team's low four players for each tournament scored the lowest ever team stroke average of 294.7 for the 12 rounds of competition.

"This team's average and James Yoo's 73.03 fall personal average for our 12 rounds make me really positive for the next semester," Landry said.

Yoo led the team in scoring, followed by

Turner at 73.8 strokes per round. No player averaged more than a 78 in the fall for LU.

In last year's spring semester, the Flames went to the NCAA East Regional Tournament, behind Paul Carey. He tallied the lowest average for the Flames last season, with a 74.5 stroke average in 31 competitive rounds. Carey did not play the fall session this year.

"He will be back for the spring of 2004," Landry said. "Paul was hard hitting the books in his senior year."

With Carey back in the spring, along with the quality of talent displayed in the fall session, Landry expects the team to be back in the East Regional for the second straight year.

"We are in better position than we were last year at this time," he said.

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Cross Country falls in championship

Evan Falat
SPORTS REPORTER

With thunderstorms depositing five inches of rain only a few days earlier, the runners competing in Saturday's Big South Cross-Country Championships were hard pressed to find a dry stretch of land at Robert Roost's Golf Course in Conway, S.C. Runners were forced to navigate through a terrain filled of mostly mud and water patches leading to a difficult course and slow times.

But in the Big South Championships times do not matter as much as overall points and that was where the competition reigned fierce. Liberty's men team finished second overall, while the Lady Flames finished in fourth place.

Josiah Melly again paced the Flames as he finished second overall among the 77 competitors, running a time of 25:28. Melly ran a spectacular race and was only beaten by fellow Kenyon countryman Terah Kipchiris who burst into a commanding lead from the start and never relinquished control during the duration of the 5-mile race.

Sophomore Evan Falat was the Flames second runner finishing in 10th place overall in a time of 26:48. Falat used a strong kick in the last 1000 meters to pass two opposing runners from High Point and one runner from Coastal Carolina to secure a place in the top 10. Both Melly and Falat were named to the Big South All-Conference team because of their top 10 finishes.

Aaron Gogain also ran extremely strong for Liberty as he ran alongside Falat for most of the race and notched a 13th place finish. Gogain crossed the finish line in a time of 27:01. Senior Dan Rabe finished in 21st overall in a time of 27:38, while freshman Christian Nichols had his best race in a Flames jersey as he ran 27:42 to pick up 23rd overall.

The men's overall standings saw High Point win their second consecutive Big South Championship by placing four runners in the

top 12. High Point had a team total of 45 points, Liberty finished second with 69 points, and Coastal Carolina rounded out the top three as they finished with 96 points.

"It was good to see the guys beat Coastal on their own course," Head Coach Brant Tolsma said. "High Point left the door open for us to knock them off, but we couldn't capitalize. We get one more shot at them in two weeks at NCAA Regionals."

For the Lady Flames senior Rebecca Parsons led the way as she finished the 3-mile course in 14th place overall in a time of 19:31. Finishing first for Liberty was particularly meaningful for Parsons as it was not only her final Big South Championship but also a testimony of her hard work and God's strength.

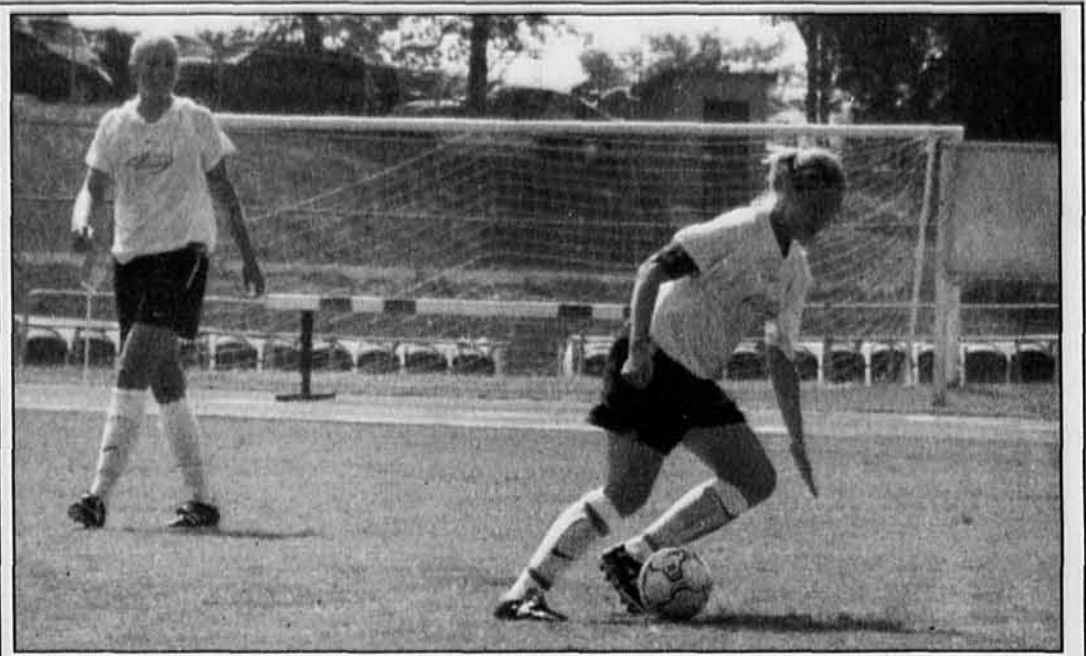
Her freshman year Parsons also was Liberty's top runner at the Big South Championships but had missed the past two seasons due to two knee surgeries. So Saturday's race completed a full circle of where she has come through God's strength.

Samantha Pelletier was 15th overall among the 70 competitors in a time of 19:43, while Reyna Quiroz, running in her first race all year because she had only become cleared by the NCAA earlier this week, finished in 19th place with a time of 19:55.

Overall, of the nine teams in the Big South Conference, Coastal finished first with 26 points, UNCA second with 47 points, High Point third with 76 points, and Liberty finished fourth with 95 points.

"This year was a challenging championship as the conference for both the men and women is better than usual," said Tolsma. "We need to continue to get stronger and better because as the conference improves we as a team have to improve as well."

In addition to the All-Conference awards the Big South also recognized the top student-athletes as well. On the All-Academic team for Liberty was junior Melissa Blackstone and sophomore Evan Falat.



MIKE TROXEL

CLEATED CAPTAIN—Jenny Davis looks to lead her Flames to another conference championship. Her freshman year, the Flames won the tournament.

Jenny Davis: Not finished yet

Megan Fatkin
SPORTS REPORTER

The captain of the women's soccer team is looking for her career to finish as strong as it started. Senior Jenny Davis is giving it all she has and hoping to leave Liberty with a third Big South Championship ring on her finger.

This 5-foot-10 senior from Modesto, Calif. has been a big part of the Women's soccer team over the last four years. Earning multiple All-Conference first team and All-Tournament selections, Big South tournament MVP honors, and even an All-State second team selection. She has 31 points to date, with 13 goals and 96 shots.

Coach James Price thinks highly of his captain "Jenny is a huge presence on the field, she is very motivated and works hard all the time." Price added, "she has made a difference since the day she got here, and we will really miss her next year."

When deciding on a college Davis knew that she wanted to get out of California and gain some new experiences. Though she fell in love with Liberty's campus on her visit, most of Liberty's appeal was due to the fact that her older sister was playing here at the time.

Davis is the second one from her family to put four years into the Liberty soccer program, but not the last. Her older sister Nancy graduated in 2001, and their younger sister Sarah is currently a sophomore. There definitely are advantages to be playing with someone you have grown up with and know your whole life, "we challenge and push each other to do our best," said Davis, "and we know how to motivate each other too." With Jenny being the middle sister she has been able to experience both sides of the situation. "When Nancy was here, I had someone to look up to and someone to go to when I needed help," Davis said. "The last two years with Sarah, I have tried to set an example for her to follow and to be there when she needed me. I love sharing college soccer with my sisters. I couldn't imagine it any other way."

As a captain, Davis says her role on the team is to lead by example. "I'm not going to come out and tell you what to do," she said, "just follow what I'm doing." Davis wants to be remembered as a player that

"made an impact on the program and helped raise the bar with hard work."

Not only is Davis a hard worker on the field, but she also puts a lot of pride into her schoolwork. Davis is in the nursing program and finds she has very little free time. "I have always had high expectations of myself academically. I won't let soccer get in the way," she said. Any athlete that is trying to balance classes and a sport would agree with Davis, "you just have to make yourself do it. Whether you are up late, or sacrificing your social life, you just have to do it."

The end of Davis' college career will not be the end of her soccer career; "I will definitely still play." Davis is not sure where her career will continue. It could be at the semi-pro level or it could be at recreation leagues, but she knows it will continue, "I love soccer too much to give up on it. Besides," she added, "I just bought a new pair of cleats, I have to get some use out of them."

Davis' favorite soccer memory was winning the Big South Championship her freshman year. "We had never won before and it was a huge accomplishment," she said. "It was evidence of growth in the team and a turning point for the program."

This year's Big South Tournament is very much attainable for the Flames. "We have had some ups and downs this season, but there is no reason we shouldn't win Big South," Davis said. "We finished the season with two conference wins and proved that we are the team to beat." Liberty has won the Big South Championship twice, in 2000 and 2001. "We know what it takes. We just have to do it."

Coach Price added, "Jenny will have a large role during Big South. She could win games for us." Davis is aware that people will be looking for her during the tournament, "I am just going to play as hard as I can and give all I have." Davis added, "It would be nice to end with another Big South Championship. But more, I want to keep winning so we can play as many games as possible. I don't want this to end."

The Flames travel down to High Point for their first game of the Tournament on Thursday.

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Liberty University

TU Campus Calendar

2003/2004

November

Nov 1 LU Football at Charleston Southern, 12 noon
Nov 1 Scaremare!
Nov 6 Student Life Passion Tour in concert, Schilling, tickets are \$10 for LU students
Nov 7 Women's Volleyball vs Charleston Southern, 5 pm, Vines Center
Nov 8 LU Football vs. Norfolk State, 1:30 pm, Williams Stadium
Nov 8 Women's Volleyball vs. Coastal Carolina, 2 pm, Vines Center
Nov 11 LU Jazz Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm, DeMoss Atrium
Nov 13-16 College For A Weekend
Nov 14-15 Touching Heaven, Shaping Earth Writers Conference
Nov 14 Women's Volleyball vs UNC Asheville, 7 pm, Vines Center
Nov 14 SGA Band Night, 8 pm, David's Place
Nov 14 LU Hockey vs Maryland in Roanoke, 11 pm
Nov 15 LU Football vs Coastal Carolina, 1:30 pm, Williams Stadium
Nov 15 Women's Volleyball vs Birmingham Southern, 2 pm, Vines Center
Nov 17 Men's Basketball vs Longwood, Vines Center
Nov 18 Student Life Presents Karaoke in the Dining Hall, 9 pm
Nov 21 Men's Basketball vs Miami of Ohio, Vines Center
Nov 22 LU Football vs Hofstra, 1:30 pm, Williams Stadium
Nov 25 Lady Flames Basketball vs VCU, 7 pm, Vines Center

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Sports

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K.J. the Keeper

The Big South Conference championships were run

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Senior goalie talks about his life in and out of soccer

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Mens Soccer finds the good side and the bad side of a 2-1 score

Ben Cates
ASST SPORTS EDITOR

As the men's soccer regular season begins to come to a close, every game becomes important. It is near that time of year when everyone starts to pay attention to conference records, and those rival games can make or break a season. So when it was so vital that the Flames come out of Asheville victorious on Wednesday night, they were able to do just that.

Although the team split a pair of games, Wednesday's game against UNC Asheville was the most important because it gave the Flames another conference win, improving their Big South record to 4-1-1.

Sophomore Darryl Roberts led Liberty Wednesday night. Roberts scored the team's second goal with less than a minute left in the first half. The goal proved to be the deciding one in the contest.

From the beginning of the match, Asheville appeared to have the upper hand. With 11 shots on goal in the first

half, the Bulldogs had almost three times as many as did the Flames. But Liberty got on the scoreboard when freshman defender Bobby Dabbs intercepted a UNCA pass. Dabbs then took the ball through the Bulldogs defense, fired on the goal, and scored at 39:40. The goal was the second of the year for Dabbs.

Only five minutes later, as the half was winding down, the Flames threatened again. Roberts received a cross from Brentley Kellum with 30 seconds left in the half. Roberts controlled the pass and rapidly fired, scoring his sixth goal of the season.

Sabotchick held the Bulldogs scoreless until a penalty kick at 82:29 by Asheville's Jordan Holthouser. Sabotchick actually held on to the shot, which was taken from 20 yards out, but he fell over the goal line. The Flames still held on for the win, improving their overall record to 7-4-1.

On Saturday, the Flames traveled to Georgia Southern. In an intense game, forward Tony Moffat scored the wining

goal to give the Eagles the win 2-1 over the Liberty.

The game proved to be not only intense, but also very physical. In fact, 58 fouls were called on the match. Both teams scored only in the first half. Georgia Southern struck first, scoring 2:22 into the game. It took the Flames only nine minutes to respond. David Guinn tied the score off of assists from Pavel Cancura and Adam Godwin.

The scoring fest continued, as the Eagles scored again 1:30 later. This time, Mofatt put Georgia Southern up for good, 2-1.

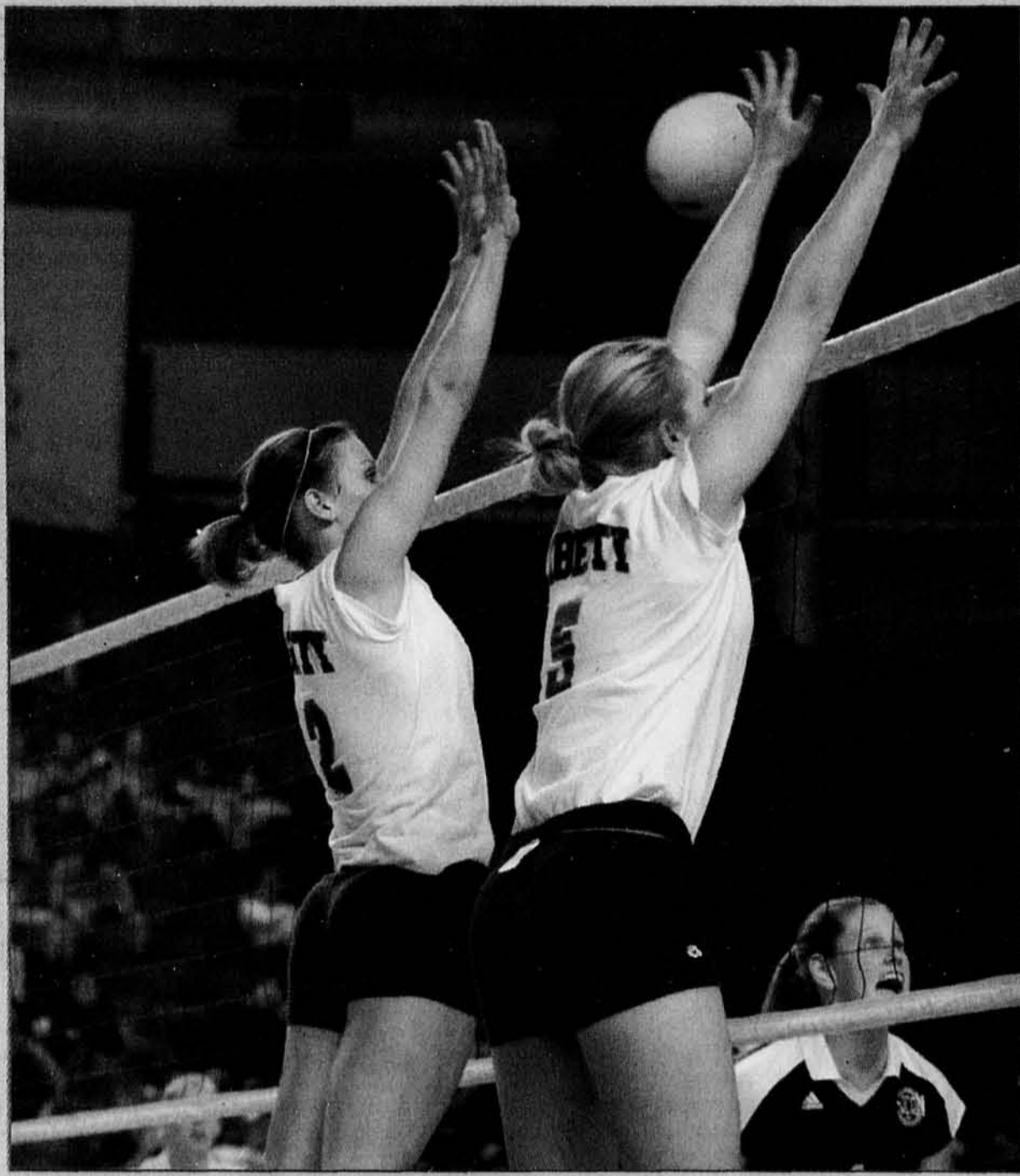
The loss dropped the Flames to 7-6-1. At 4-1-1, they currently hold second place in the conference, two games behind Coastal Carolina with only one conference game remaining. The team travels to Va. Tech on Tuesday, and will play their last home game against Birmingham-Southern on Nov. 7.



GOING UP FOR IT—Bobby Dabbs, seen early in the season, scored the first goal of the game in the Flames 2-1 win over UNC Asheville.

All alone at the top of Big South

Ben Cates
ASST SPORTS EDITOR



DOUBLE TROUBLE—Erin McKeown and Janell Migeot team up to lead the Flames to wins in their last two games.

The Lady Flames spent the early part of last week preparing for two important games. By Friday evening, they had wiped out two opponents, and found themselves alone in first place of the Big South Conference.

Liberty took the court Thursday night for the first time in nine days as the UNCG Spartans came to town. The squad had not played at home since beating Virginia Tech on October 14. But as the first game began, it was obvious that the team had not lost the dominant edge it has possessed of late. Liberty began by beating the Spartans 30-21 in the first game, backed by 14 kills.

In game two, the Lady Flames continued their assault on the Spartans. In what proved to be the easiest game of the night, the squad racked up a 17 kills and were opposed only by eight. With those strategic kills, the team disabled the Spartan defense. Liberty got out to a 14-7 lead early. The squad held its largest lead as the game closed with a score of 30-19.

Liberty then went on to defeat the Spartans in game three, to give them the victory. Erin McKeown's kill with the score tied at 7-7 proved to be the point that put the Flames ahead for good. They never looked back from that point and won 30-21. "It's always a big thing when a player gets a kill," McKeown said. "It can change the momentum of a game and get your side pumped up."

Junior Jennifer Belk led the squad Thursday night with 11 kills,

and McKeown added 10. Sophomore Janell Migeot led defensively with 11 digs in the match. With the victory, Liberty received its ninth non-conference win of the season.

The real test for the Flames came Friday night against the Winthrop Eagles. The conference foe was also battling for the top spot in the Big South. "It's one of our biggest games of the year," Coach Chris Phillips said before the match. McKeown echoed the same thoughts. "They play very well at home. We are just going to stick to our game plan and hope we do well," she said.

The Lady Flames did just that Friday night. They were dominant in game one, backed by a steady defense. The Eagles came back in game two to challenge the squad, as the teams battled for the lead. Liberty was able to hold on and take the game 30-25. It proved to be the closest game of the match. The Eagles threatened in game three but were routed quickly by the Flames offense.

Four players got into double figure statistics in kills on Friday evening. Migeot and Belk led the offense with 12 kills, McKeown finished with 11, and Senior Tatiana Tkachuk added 10 kills in the win.

By beating Winthrop, Liberty improved its record to 16-10. They are also 7-1 in Big South play this year. The Flames have now won three games in a row. Phillips said she is pleased with the team's play. "I think they are playing well," she said. "We're doing some really good things right now. All 14 of our girls are playing really well."

Junior Jennifer Belk led the squad Thursday night with 11 kills,

Flames plunder Bucs with stiff defense

Paul Lundy
SPORTS REPORTER

The fires that have seared the West Coast may be under control, but that did not stop the Flames from running rampant at Charleston Southern University on Saturday.

Coming off a bye week Liberty charged into the game against the Bucs well rested and energized. The Flames took the field and stormed away with a convincing 17-6 victory. The win is another in a long line of dominating performances against the Bucs of CSU.

Liberty leads the all-time series between the two teams by the count of 10 wins to only one loss. On a day that saw great in-conference matchups all across the college football scoreboard, the Flames were able to pick up their second Big South Conference win. It would appear that the Flames are hitting their stride, as

they have been the winner in three of their last six games.

The story of the day was Liberty's incredible run defense. The Buccaneers attempted 35 rushes, and were able to amass a grand total of negative one yard against the Flames increasingly stingy defensive front line. Manny Rojas, a member of the Flames secondary team was able to intercept a key pass in the third quarter to preserve the win. Saturday's contest marked the second time this season in which the Flames defense has given up less than 10 points in a game.

Quarterback J.R. Barley got the scoring started for the Flames when he connected with Sam Gado for a 34-yard scoring strike early in the second quarter. The Flames led by a score of 7-0 at halftime.

After that initial scoring drive by

the Flames, the teams went back and forth for a while with no points being tallied. Then in the fourth quarter the Flames broke it open as Scott Kiovisky knocked in a 42-yard field goal and running back Dre Barnes scampered for a 4-yard touchdown score. CSU added a touchdown late in the fourth quarter to bring the final to 17-6 in Liberty's favor.

Barley was effective at quarterback on Saturday as he tossed eight completions for 100 yards and a touchdown. The game saw Barnes go over the 1,000-yard mark on the ground for the season. He picked his way through the CSU defense for 153 yards. Darnell Edwards led the flames receiving corp with two receptions.

The Flames have played well this season, but a road win had eluded them until Saturday. Injuries have been a nuisance for the team this sea-

son, but the team is really beginning to rally around each other.

Liberty's very tough non-conference schedule is starting to pay dividends as the Flames are well prepared to play its conference games.

Liberty's game against the Bucs was their final road game of the season. The teams remaining three games will all take place in the Flame-friendly environment of Williams Stadium. Liberty has been victorious in two of its three home games so far this season.

Saturday's win pushes the Flames record in conference play to 2-1, and 3-6 overall. Norfolk state comes into town on November 8 to do battle with the Flames at 1:30 p.m. in a non-conference match up. Coastal Carolina heads north on the November 15, to play the Flames in the teams final Big South Conference tilt of the season.

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- 11/22 Hofstra, 1:30 p.m.

Mens Soccer

- 11/4 @ Virginia Tech, 7 p.m.
- 11/7 BSC, 7 p.m.
- 11/13 @ Big South Tourney

Womens Soccer

- 11/6 @ Big South Tourney
- 11/7 @ Big South Tourney

Volleyball

- 11/7 Charleston South., 7 p.m.
- 11/8 Coastal Carolina, 2 p.m.
- 11/11 Radford, 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball preview next week. The women start their season November 13 @ the NIT.