



LIBERTY CHAMPION

Today: P. Cloudy 61/51 Tomorrow: T. Storms 70/34

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Sundae Grill closes

Samantha Boontjer
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The family restaurant next door to Liberty University, The Sundae Grill, closed its doors Dec. 16, 2012, and announced that it would not be reopening.

The Liberty University Clanders Station Holdings LLC purchased the restaurant, and according to Lee Beaumont, Vice President for Auxiliary Services, the school is actively seeking tenants.

"It has taken a few days for everything to sink in, but in a nut shell and in a few words ... the Sundae Grill will not re-open for 2013. We are closed," a press release on the restaurant's Facebook page stated.

The owners, "BH," "Mrs. K" and Michael Kurbjeweit, have now retired and moved to Florida.

The Liberty University Clanders Station Holdings LLC owns Clanders Station and is part of the University Endowment, according to Beaumont. He explained that Liberty's buying the restaurant was logical.

"The university already owns Clanders Station, the property with the Ramp Church and Ornitich, so it just made sense," Beaumont said. "Our leasing agent, Chris Doyle, has received several inquiries from prospective tenants, and we are hopeful to close a deal in the near future. This will bring another dining option close to the campus for students to enjoy."

The new restaurant, according to Beaumont, would be just like other private restaurants around town, only they will be authorized to accept Flames Cash.

Liberty University and the Lynchburg community seemed disappointed to hear about the restaurant closing. Shayna Kendle, a Liberty senior, was sad when she heard that the restaurant had closed.

"The people there were so great. They loved Liberty kids," Kendle said.

The owners themselves seemed reluctant to leave the shop.

"You all know by now that we loved having you ... loved serving you your favorite dishes ... and if we could, we would be here for you for many, many more years, 24/7," the owners said in a press release. "We have been so very, very fortunate to get to know so many of you by name and all of you by your smiling faces. We thank you for your many, many years of business."

BOONTJER is a news reporter.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

SNOW-BOWL — Liberty students gathered for a cold game of football following the snowstorm Friday, Jan. 25.

Snowstorms powder Liberty

Liberty resembled a winter wonderland twice in one week, snow expected Friday

Melanie Oelrich
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The first snowfall of the winter season brought much excitement and buzz on Liberty University's campus, Thursday, Jan. 17. Around 5 p.m., roughly 3-5 inches of white bliss blanketed the roads in 30 minutes, bringing frustration and inconvenience for students and faculty needing to get home.

"It took me around 30 minutes to get from campus to my apartment on Timberlake Road, which normally takes 10 minutes," Liberty junior Chelsey Johnson said. "I witnessed several accidents,

which made me that much more nervous and anxious about getting home safely."

Classes were delayed, and the university opened Friday morning at 11:25 a.m.

The following week, Lynchburg was hit again, but with a lighter snowfall.

Around 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, light snow started to drift onto campus, but it was not heavy enough to cancel morning classes. As students watched the snow cover the campus grounds, the Liberty facilities crew was quick to salt the pathways to prevent students from slipping. The roads, both on campus and off, were already filling with

cautious drivers trying to avoid accidents.

Victoria Petrocelli, Liberty senior and Visitors Center employee, was in the middle of a Friendly Friday tour when it started snowing.

"It was a perfect day for guests to be on our campus," Petrocelli said. "It was fun to watch the snow fall in the courtyard, and it just enhanced the beauty of our campus in the winter season."

The recent snowstorms, Iago and Khan, swept through the South, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S. Southern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, northern South Carolina and North Carolina

have experienced significant icing from the storm. According to the Weather Channel website, up to two inches of snow has been reported in several locations across the state as of Friday afternoon.

Although these snowstorms have brought freezing temperatures and rough road conditions, Lynchburg is expected to see more sunshine and warmer temperatures within the next few days, followed by possible snow on Friday, according to the Weather Channel.

OELRICH is the news editor.

The VUE begins leasing

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Like most universities, Liberty has its fair share of students every semester who are looking to leave their on-campus dorm life to move off campus and experience the real world.

Until recently, students moving off campus in Lynchburg were largely forced to choose between local communities like Cornerstone, Wyndhurst, the Vistas and Park Place.

That changed in November, when a community of what is known as

"Purpose-Built Student Housing" called The Vue @ College Square began leasing.

"The Vue is the only community in Lynchburg specifically tailored to the modern student," Missy Milner, the vice president of The Vue, said. "To qualify, a prospective resident must provide proof of enrollment in addition to other qualifying criteria. We also provide individual liability leases so that students are only responsible for their suite and the common area."

The PBSH community

was carefully planned, designed and built just off Wards Ferry Road, behind the Wal-Mart that lies across the street from the university's campus.

"To the best of our knowledge, we are the first Purpose-Built Student Housing in Lynchburg," Brandy Daly, the property manager for The Vue, said.

Chris Langley, who owns Langley Apartments, designed the project. Langley Apartments is the company responsible for Riverview Park, Boonsboro Village and Park Place,



EMILY BECKER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

TOWNHOMES — The VUE provides students with an off-campus community.

among other communities in the Lynchburg area.

Langley has a background in leasing thou-

sands of conventional apartments to college students. He began researching off-campus student

housing in other college towns and decided to replicate that model for Liberty University students. Daly

See VUE, A6

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

News

The School of Cinematic Arts partnered with EchoLight Studios. **A3**

Sports

The track and field team dominated the Liberty Open Jan. 25 and 26. **B2**

Feature

The T-Room opened a new location in Cornerstone over winter break. **B4**

■ News	A1
■ Opinion	A4
■ Sports	B1
■ Feature	B6

News Briefs

Sen. Garrett's Proposed Abortion Bill Defeated

Republican Virginia Sen. Thomas Garrett proposed a bill Jan. 9 that would have ended tax-funded abortions in Virginia, specifically aborting the severely disabled.

According to Garrett's press release, an 8-7 vote by the Committee of Education struck down the bill in the Virginia Senate.

Garrett made it clear that the bill would not prohibit an individual from obtaining an abortion — it would simply ensure that taxpayer money was not used to pay for the procedure.

The bill, known as SB 826, would bring abortion laws in Virginia up to date with the Federal Hyde Amendment passed by Congress in 1976, which guarantees that taxpayers will not be burdened by abortion procedures.

Opponents of the bill argued that, in many cases, abortions are performed for mothers who want their baby to be born, but doctors have determined their child to be incompatible with life.

"The idea of a doctor labeling a child incompatible with life was reminiscent of eugenics," Garrett said in a press release.

It is not yet known whether Garrett plans to repeal SB 826 in the near future.

Mars Rover Celebrates Milestone

When the Mars rover Opportunity landed on the planet's surface nine years ago, NASA officials in charge of the mission made it clear that it would be an accomplishment for the rover to last over 90 days.

It has been 3,205 days and counting. According to ABC News, in that amount of time, the rover has driven over 22 miles on the alien planet. Most of the movement has been from crater-to-crater at a snail's pace, stopping for months at a time in the frigid Martian winters.

In January 2004, Opportunity and its twin, Spirit, reached Mars. According to ABC News, Spirit was placed in hilly territory on the other side of the planet. In 2009, the rover got stuck in crusty soil, and its radio went silent the following year. Opportunity, on the other hand, has had some close calls, but has managed to survive them all.

In an interview with ABC News, John Callas, manager of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover project, said that Opportunity is still in very good health, especially considering what it has gone through.

"The surface of Mars is a pretty tough place," Callas said. "There can be temperature fluctuations of a hundred degrees each day. That's pretty hard on the hardware."

NASA has not done much to recognize the impressiveness of this lengthy expedition. Instead, they just continue to work.

Callas told ABC News that Opportunity will head to an area nicknamed Cape Tribulation in a few months. The clay there could be rich in minerals suggestive of past life.

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VDOT plans for winter weather

Lynchburg crews prepare equipment to manage snow on roadways

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Despite all of the excitement that comes with the snow, the inclement weather can cause a struggle to keep the traffic flowing both on and off campus.

The Lynchburg District of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is taking necessary measures to prepare the roads to withstand the snowy weather.

"We are committed to do everything in our ability to respond to the storm using the equipment that we have," Paula Jones, the communications manager for the VDOT Lynchburg District, said.

"The VDOT does some pre-treatment of roads in areas that expect snow by applying chemicals like salt brine, magnesium chloride and calcium chloride to roadways to prepare the pavement. And when the snow does accumulate on the roads, they treat the roads by using the snowplow car," Jones said.

VDOT's website states that crews have readied their snowplows, checked salt and sand supplies, and are



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

PLOWING — Liberty works in addition to VDOT to keep campus roads clear of snow.

fully mobilized in anticipation of the winter weather.

According to representative Tamara Rollison, VDOT has 2,424 pieces of state equipment, approximately 7,144 pieces of hired equipment and 818 pieces of interstate contractor equipment ready for snow- and ice-related activities.

VDOT's website says that during a snow storm, it is safest to stay indoors due to the fact that about 70 percent of deaths related

to ice and snow occur in automobiles.

VDOT offers helpful tips when driving in winter weather.

"Here are some driving tips when you find yourself driving on slippery roads," Jones said. "Slow down and give extra time to reach your destination. Keep a distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles. Take extra caution when driving areas that may potentially be icy, such as shady spots

and bridges."

VDOT highly recommends that drivers stay off the road if possible, but also advises that drivers check the road conditions before getting on the road by calling 511 or logging in at 511virginia.org to get real-time information about weather and road conditions for all major highways in Virginia. When on the road, drivers can also call 511 from any telephone or download VDOT's 511 mobile application to keep up with any changes that may occur.

According to VDOT's recent press release regarding their plans after the snowstorm, it is their goal to have their crew clear out interstates, primary roads and major secondary roads that connect important public facilities, such as fire stations, hospitals and schools, within 48 hours after a winter storm. Secondary roads and subdivision roads will be treated accordingly, depending on the severity of the storm.

PARK is a news reporter.

Quiz Bowl dominates Big South

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Liberty University's Quiz Bowl team triumphed over Gardner-Webb Saturday, Jan. 26, 170 to 100, capturing Liberty's seventh Big South Conference victory in eight years.

The victory over Gardner-Webb has provided the team with a perfect 6-0 record, according to Coach James Nutter.

"I've always enjoyed playing Gardner-Webb's team. We managed to defeat them for the fourth Big South in a row, but they always put up a great fight and give us a run for our money," Jake Rogers said.

The team has earned its victories but is far from done. Liberty will move on to the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) sectional competition held at the University of Tennessee Feb. 8, according to Nutter.

Nutter believes that Liberty's record is exemplary thus far. The NAQT section-

als have also been a fruitful proving ground for the team.

"Last year, we finished third in that three-state-wide tournament and beat UNC-Chapel Hill, which eventually finished first in our region," Nutter said.

Key players in this weekend's victory were leading scorers Jon Bateman and Doug Stephens, according to Nutter.

The team consists of five students who are responsible for their own specialized area of study.

Rogers specializes in math, computer science and mythology. Stephens specializes in literature and philosophy. Kaitlyn Shondelmyer specializes in science and mythology. Bateman studies history and pop culture, and Greta Hanks specializes in music, art and geography, according to former varsity member and current team moderator Sabrina Hardy.

"Since we're all geeks of the highest order, we race to the buzzers on nerdier pop culture questions, and rare is



PHOTO PROVIDED

TEAM — Quiz Bowl members won big this weekend.

the day where we ever get a sports question right," Rogers said.

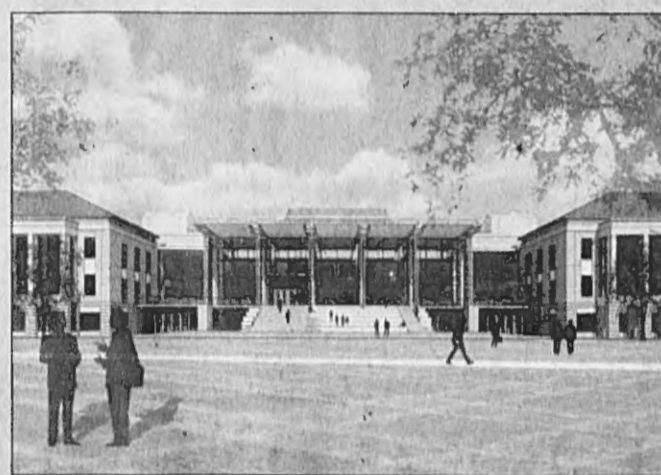
Players are encouraged to have a well-rounded set of general knowledge at their disposal, rather than just their specialization, according to Hardy.

"You can't focus too intently on your specialization. If you do, you're not a good team player," Hardy said.

Team members undergo about four hours of training every week, with scrimmages at every practice, according to Nutter.

"Like debate, Liberty's Quiz Bowl teams dominate that they can compete academically with most any college in America. We have beaten teams from the Big South, the ACC and the Big Ten," Nutter said. "More importantly, it shows that Christians are critical thinkers who are very knowledgeable in their respective fields of study."

ANGIONE is a news reporter.



Champion corrections

In last week's issue of the Liberty Champion, an article about the flurry of construction projects on campus featured four renderings of some of the expected buildings upon completion.

The picture to the left was featured and should have been identified as, "This sketch provides a view of DeMoss Hall from the current location of the Hangar after construction on the new food court and academic areas."

LIBERTY CHAMPION

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Cinematic Arts joins EchoLight Studios

The new partnership will provide state-of-the-art equipment for potential Liberty filmmakers

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The Cinematic Arts department at Liberty University recently formed an agreement with EchoLight Studios, a major force in the Christian film-making industry, which will allow students to gain real world experience in the world of cinema.

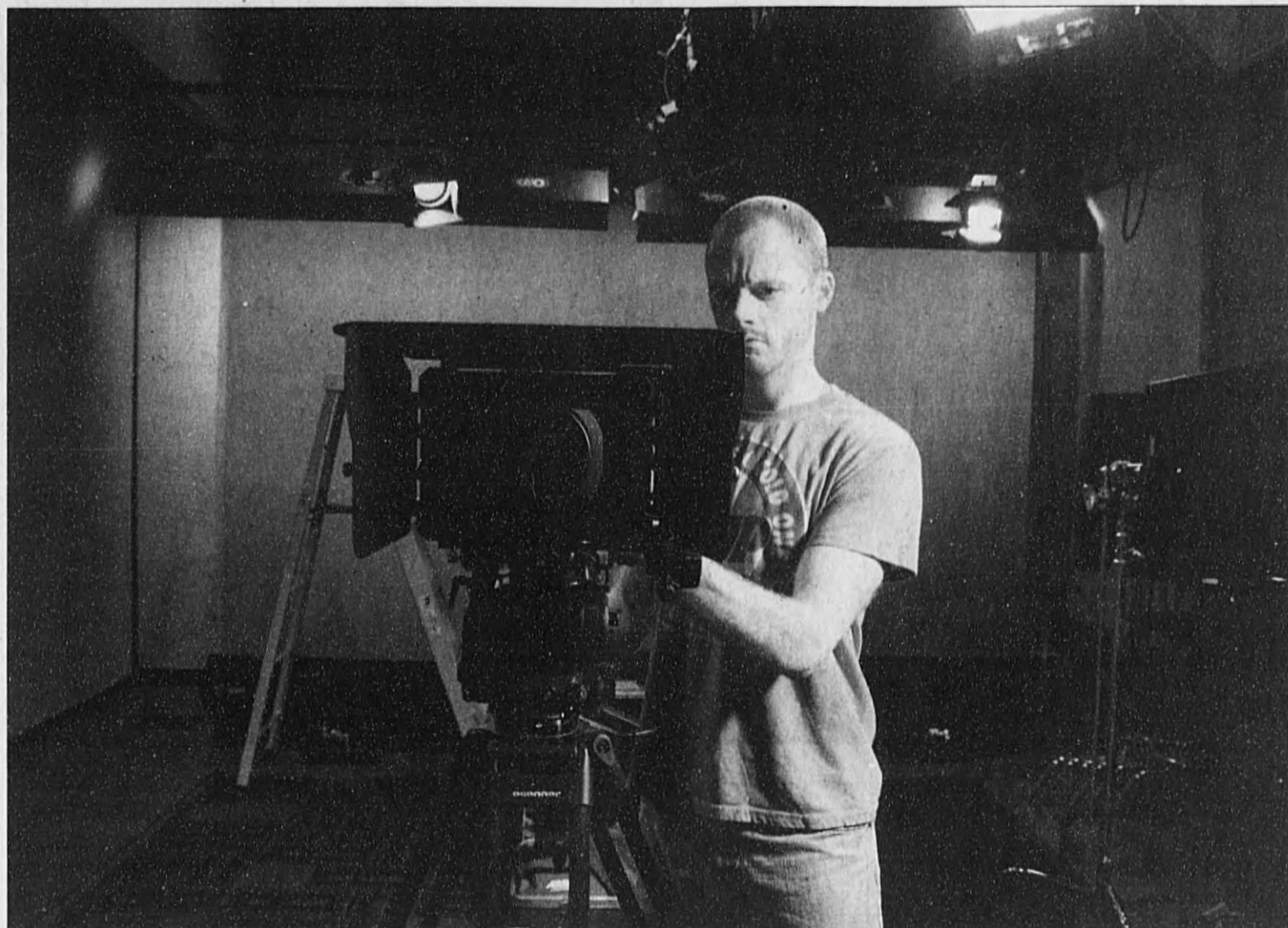
"When I came to Liberty, I quickly immersed myself within the Christian community of filmmakers," Executive Director of the Zaki Gordon Cinematic Arts Center (ZGCAC) Stephan Schultze said.

According to Schultze, the relationship between EchoLight and himself has been growing over time and that made it an easy fit to connect their mission of developing marketable films for the Christian audience to Liberty's Cinematic Arts program. Schultze was originally referred to the studio through Assistant Professor of the Cinematic Arts Scotty Curlee, who is known for his full-length feature film "The Potential Inside." The film was produced by EchoLight and has been distributed in the U.S. and 13 other countries.

"I've seen EchoLight at festivals," Schultze said. "I talked to them, and we started developing a friendship and getting to know each other better. They approached me about making movies for them, and I said, 'I'm pretty happy in my job at Liberty University, but we've got a great student body if you'd like to be a part of allowing students to work on feature films.'"

According to Schultze, this relationship satisfies the Cinematic Arts curriculum's design to get students credit and experience on a feature film prior to graduating.

"EchoLight Studios welcomed that idea and they're very excited



LAUREN ADRIANCE | LIBERTY CHAMPION

STUDIO — A Cinematic Arts student works with a professional camera in one of the school's production studios.

about the opportunity to work around Liberty and with the students here," Schultze said.

According to Schultze, when he set up and designed a curriculum to do feature films, he did not have a partner. He just went in with his faith, believing that something would happen, and now a door had been opened.

A multi-million-dollar contract was drawn to include a five-year plan to finance, produce and distribute five full-length feature films alongside Liberty

Motion Pictures.

Christopher Morrow, EchoLight's chief global strategist and co-founder, said that the firm was formed "to do it all — to finance, produce and distribute — to reach people in all the ways they watch movies wherever they are in the world.

"(EchoLight) is, I think, the only Christian film distribution company in the world that actually is willing to fund the movies they distribute, as opposed to just picking them up after the film-

makers finish them. That is why this is such a unique relationship," Schultze said. "They want to be a part of supporting the educational process here and are willing to take the risk with us."

Students in the Cinematic Arts department will receive substantial credit for their resumes, and will be well-advanced in experience in the field of filmmaking compared to students graduating from other film schools.

"At the scale that students are going to get this experience, they

usually won't get this for about five years into their career," Schultze said.

For more information on the Cinematic Arts department, visit them at liberty.edu or contact them at cinema@liberty.edu. For information on EchoLight Studios, visit echolight.com.

BARTLETT is a news reporter.



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Armstrong doped, others cope

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Finally, the truth is out. After spending more than a decade in denial, even seeking judicial action against those who revealed his true face, Lance Armstrong has come clean about using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) during his prolific cycling career. In a two-night, tell-all interview with Oprah Winfrey Jan. 17 and 18, Armstrong described in detail how he and other teammates used drugs and avoided positive test results from the mid-90's until 2005.

Before his interview with Winfrey, Armstrong had consistently denied allegations by the media, as well as his teammates, that he had used PEDs to win an unprecedented seven Tour de France titles in a row. He did not just deny these allegations — he was defiant.

He attacked anyone who dared to question the legitimacy of his accomplishments, such as The Sunday Times, a United Kingdom newspaper that implied he may have doped. He called Emma O'Reilly, who served as the team masseuse for Armstrong's U.S. Postal cycling squad, derogatory names that we cannot even print here. He lied — under oath, mind you — when inquired about his drug use after his former teammate Frankie Andreu and Andreu's wife Betsy testified against him in 2006.

When Winfrey asked Armstrong about whether he sued O'Reilly for her comments, Armstrong's response revealed just how much trouble he had spent defending his name.

"To be honest, Oprah, we



GEORGE BURNS | CREATIVE COMMONS

OWNING UP — After years of denial, Armstrong confessed during a Jan. 17 interview with Winfrey.

sued so many people I don't even know. I'm sure we did."

It is hard to fathom the size of the web of lies that Armstrong weaved, and the sad fact is that he is not done deceiving. The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), who published the 1,000-page investigative report on Armstrong's drug use, said that Armstrong has still not come completely clean. Armstrong told Winfrey he did not use PEDs during his return to the Tour de France in 2009 and 2010.

"His blood tests in 2009, 2010 — expert reports based on the variation of his blood values. From those tests, (there is a) one-in-a-million chance that it was due to something other than doping," USADA's CEO Travis Tygart told 60 Minutes in an in-

terview that aired Jan. 27.

When will Armstrong stop? Armstrong told Winfrey that he was not sure why he came clean now. People will speculate as to his reason, but the question is whether Armstrong was remorseful that he cheated or just upset that he got caught.

In November, after receiving his ban from the International Cycling Union based on the USADA report, a defiant Armstrong posted a picture on Twitter of himself relaxing at his home under his Tour de France yellow jerseys — jerseys whose meaning had disappeared with the removal of his seven titles.

Was his confession a quick change of heart, or merely another tool for Armstrong to use? USADA's investigation was fol-

lowed by a ban on Armstrong from competing in any internationally-sanctioned event, including Armstrong's most recent passion: marathons.

"Would I like to run the Chicago Marathon when I'm 50? I would love to compete, but that isn't the reason why I'm doing this," Armstrong said during his confession. "It might not be the most popular answer, but I think I deserve it, maybe not right now, but I think I deserve it."

I beg to differ, Lance. You know who deserves something? How about Chris Basson, a former French cyclist who competed beside Armstrong in the Tour? Other riders ostracized Basson, who never doped, after he wrote a column in 1999 concerning doping in the sport. The

movement to shun Basson was led by Armstrong, who confronted Basson during a race, threatened him and told him to get out of the sport. We will never know how Basson would have fared against an even playing field, but someone who stayed clean in an era of cheating deserves to be vindicated.

You know who deserves something? Livestrong, the nonprofit organization for cancer research that Armstrong founded and once served as the chairman for, has recently announced that their 2013 budget is nearly 11 percent less than it was in 2012. Livestrong asked Armstrong to leave his position in last October.

"That was the lowest point," Armstrong said.

Perhaps, but think about how the workers at Livestrong, which has raised more than \$500 million since 1997, feel. Now they must continue without the man who was once the face of the organization. They have the unfair task of escaping a lie they had no part in fabricating.

The same process is facing many others, people who made truthful claims, only to be sued, insulted and ostracized.

Certainly, we would be wrong not to forgive Armstrong, but we would be naive to forget the path he left behind as well. It is time we remember those who truly deserve our attention. It is time we let his name fade away to where it would have been had he not cheated — in anonymity.

Congratulations, Lance. You have earned it.

WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.

Forty years ago, Roe v. Wade was born

Gabriella Fuller
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Last week marked the anniversary of a significant event in our nation's history. I wonder, though, just how many of us stopped to pay attention.

The event was none other than the Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade. And now, 40 years after the fact, abortion on demand remains untouchable by law.

The Guttmacher Institute recently reported that since Jan. 22, 1973, more than 54 million pre-born children have been sentenced to death under the Roe v. Wade ruling. Despite the tragic number — which substantially overshadows the under one million people who have been lost in the combination of American wars spanning from the Revolu-

tionary War to the War in Afghanistan — Planned Parenthood continues to celebrate what it declares to be a victory for women's "right to choose."

According to Planned Parenthood, abortions are common, routine medical procedures that are not only the right choice, but are often the only choice.

Heartbreaking as the argument may be, as Christians, we have heard it all before. Perhaps there are newer numbers or updated statistics, but when it boils down to the morality of the matter, we have all been programmed with textbook answers — scripted notions and desensitized thoughts toward a topic that has become over-debated and under-acted upon.

I do not doubt that the majority of us believe

"Where does the disconnect occur between belief and action?"

— GABRIELLA FULLER

abortion is wrong. But even if that assumption is true, where does the disconnect occur between belief and action? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that the attack on life does not begin in the womb inasmuch as it begins in the minds of people. Ignorance cannot be to blame for the carnage of abortion — hardness of heart is at the root of the problem.

With a topic as widely disputed as abortion, the tendency seems to be a severe undermining of the impact that an individual can make. Rather than contemplating what may actually be done in such

circumstances, the majority of people will instead resort to a small shake of the head and a nearly inaudible sigh of sadness. For a few fleeting moments, news of abortion elicits emotion, but all too soon, the moment is gone, and life returns to normal.

Fear of ineffectiveness, however, has never been as unfounded as it is today. In fact, state laws to educate women and protect pre-born children are steadily increasing. According to the international nonprofit organization Liberty Counsel, 92 abortion-regulation provisions were passed by state

legislature in 2011 alone. Statistics are beginning to reveal that public opinion is abandoning its historically pro-choice position in favor of life.

A recent edition of Time Magazine printed a front-page story with a headline reading: "40 Years Ago, Abortion-Rights Activists Won An Epic Victory With Roe v. Wade. They've Been Losing Ever Since." The Time piece revealed that in a Gallup survey conducted in May 2012, just 41 percent of Americans identified themselves as pro-choice.

The abortion-rights activists are losing. The pro-choice cause is in crisis.

Encouraging as these statistics may be, let them demonstrate to us that while we do in fact have a voice and an opinion that matters, there is still sub-

stantial work to be done. Planned Parenthood's annual report revealed that the abortion giant performed 334,000 abortions last year, receiving \$1.2 million per day in government funding.

Now, more than ever before, our nation is in need of people willing to stand for life. As Proverbs 31:8 exhorts, we are to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."

Pray for those affected by abortion and become educated in advocating for life. Find and support organizations involved in the pro-life movement. Let us be the generation that puts an end to the abortion holocaust too long masked by the euphemistic language of freedom of choice.

FULLER is an opinion writer.

From the Desk

by Tabitha Cassidy

Finding a suitable job in this tough economy is more than formidable — it is harder than a 4-year-old trying to play Samuel Barber's Cello Concerto in A minor. The instrument would eventually overpower the toddler, and his grubby, little hands would

never be able to keep up with the advanced movements. Sounds just like the job market, right?

Despite the feelings of complete destitution and abandonment flitting across all of our minds as we search for something in our own field of study, the

Bureau of Labor Statistics gives just one gleaming ray of hope to us all — the unemployment rate has been steadily decreasing since 2010, now at a nearly acceptable 7.8 percent.

Still, the apprehension of leaving college and entering the "adult" world of big business and professional titles is unnervingly difficult.

We have heard it more often than our father's story about how he and his brothers used to shoot each other with BB guns when they were kids, but you cannot get a job without experience, and you cannot get experience without a job — a circular-reasoning nightmare

that even Freddy Krueger would dread to enter.

We bite the bullet of minimal experience and pray that enough doors open to escape this house of horrors before Krueger grabs our coat tails and drags us back under for another round.

Volunteering works for some people, but those of us who are eventually going into some sort of medical field probably would find it impossible for someone to voluntarily be our guinea pig in elec-

troconvulsive therapy.

Internships work, too, if we are able to devote multiple hours a week working at something where we will not make a dime and still have to show up to that Seven-Eleven job five days a week with a bright smile on our faces to pay our bills. At least at the convenience store there is the possibility of free slushies.

But, in our day and age, even having the opportunity to intern at a non-paying employment position is a blessing. Having that and being able to work at some job beneath our education to help pay the bills is even better.

Sometimes, we need to

remember that nothing in life, not even the ability to work in order to survive, is guaranteed to us. Putting in our dues and working from the ground up is something that we all have to do to get to where we need to go.

Pray that your fingers move fast enough to keep up with your concerto and that the weight of the cello does not overpower you. After all, you cannot make music in your profession without first practicing your scales.

CASSIDY is the editor in chief.



CASSIDY

Students spread the Gospel in East Asia

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Liberty University students had the opportunity to give back over winter break when Light Ministries sent a short-term mission group to share the Gospel with people in East Asia.

According to the Liberty News Service, the group of 14 students and two staff members departed for the long journey to East Asia Dec. 27. Students served disabled children at a local orphanage and spent the majority of the trip teaching English in several settings.

At the orphanage, the mission team spent several days caring for children suffering from minor to severe disabilities. The team fed and cared for orphans with Cerebral Palsy, as well as various mental and physical handicaps. When not serving the children, Liberty students got the opportunity to build relationships by spending quality time with them.

According to John, the trip's Light Ministries campaign coordinator, the East Asian country does not value human life or those with disabilities. We are unable to use John's last name because of safety reasons.



PHOTO PROVIDED

MISSION — Students on a mission trip with Light Ministries pose for a group picture.

"The reality is that if it weren't for this orphanage that was there, these kids would be dead," John said. "The orphanage ministry that we plugged in with was really an amazing ministry."

For one-and-a-half weeks of the trip, students spent their time building relationships with locals by connecting with nearby schools.

Liberty students split into four teams to teach English,

physical education, crafts and more to 2-5-year-old children at a kindergarten.

The group also taught English to eighth-grade students at a middle school and connected with college-age students by teaching them English in a couple of different settings.

For John, relational ministry with the university students was one of his favorite parts of the trip.

"It opened some really cool doors to be able to share our faith with them, as they were interested, and to see what the Lord, was doing through that," John said. "(It was exciting) to be able to give someone a Bible ... and to see their excitement in that and their interest in reading it, and to see how the Holy Spirit was working through people as we talked with them about God's word."

Throughout the two-and-a-half-week trip, the team stayed involved in ministries that already existed in the region.

"It wasn't just our team going in and doing our own little thing for two weeks, but we were plugging into something that God's already doing and will continue to do. The impact, Lord willing, is continuing even after we leave," John said.

Along with their involvement in several ministries, the team made a difference in the area by providing a Christian example in a spiritually desolate part of the world.

"Simply just being a light in places where there's very little light is impactful," John said.

For the Liberty students who journeyed to East Asia, the trip will likely be something they will never forget. Students met and talked with people who had never heard of Jesus or seen a Bible.

"It exposed them to a place in the world where it's very spiritually dark," John said. "Being able to see that need and experience that need was and is impactful."

TAIT is a news reporter.

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School of Music merger complete

The Center for Music and Performing Arts set to become one of the largest in the nation

Kara Smith
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In the beginning of the 2012 fall semester, the Department of Music and Humanities and the Department of Worship and Music Studies (Center for Worship) merged to become the Liberty University School of Music: The Center for Music and the Performing Arts and the Center for Music and Worship.

At that time, the Administration announced plans for construction of a new School of Music building to be located behind DeMoss.

"We felt like it would allow us to combine resources — physical resources, faculty resources and financial resources," Dean of the School of Music Vernon Whaley said.

The Center for Worship lost David's Place due to the new baseball stadium being built in its location. The Department for Music and Humanities will lose their facility because of the building of the new library, and both departments need a place together.

"The mission of the newly created School of Music is to train and equip musicians as champions for Christ," according to the Liberty News Service.

The merge involved taking about 600 students in the area of worship and music and about 150 in the area of performance and combining them together with the graduate programs to end up with more than 1,000 students. According to Whaley, the School of Music is the seventh largest one in the country.

"The biggest and exciting thing is it gives us the opportunity to offer degrees that we never could offer before," Whaley said.

The school is planning new degree programs in jazz studies and music education. Faculty members are also talking about a new commercial music program, a film-scoring degree program and a new specialization in cinema arts. The Center for Music



KAMRYN REYNOLDS | LIBERTY CHAMPION

MUSIC — J.T. Gill (Top) and André Sawusch (Right) perfect the art of playing their respective instruments in practice studios provided for students studying in the Center for Music and Performing Arts.



and Performing Arts will also produce some joint recitals this spring semester.

According to Whaley, the merge strengthens the undergraduate and graduate degrees because it takes the faculty from both departments and brings them together.

"I think the students will realize and recognize the diversity of music that's been offered on our campus by having students learn side by side," Associate Dean for Music and Performing Arts John Kinchen said. "I think they are encouraged by that. I think that the professors again have come to a greater sense of community, which has encouraged us to depend on each other and foster greater creativity in

the art form." The school is in the process of getting ready to present the new degrees to the faculty curriculum committee.

"What I hope for the future is that we become not just one of the largest schools, but the most dynamic school in the country, if not the world, with one express mission — and that is to train

young men and women to go forth and spread the Gospel through their art form, ultimately using music as a vehicle for communication to the world that doesn't know Jesus Christ," Kinchen said.

"The merger is going exceptionally well," Whaley said. "Everything is going great. I have a great team to work

with. We've got 34 full-time faculty members, and they're all on board, working hard to make this thing happen. We believe once the merger is complete and everybody is kind of settled in their places, the School of Music will quickly become one of the top five schools in the country, or better."

SMITH is a news reporter.

VUE continued from A1

also said that Langley wanted to provide students with the opportunity to live in a community of other students while also having the opportunity to experience life off campus.

Hilary Sedgeman, a junior at Liberty University, signed a 6-month lease at the end of December and already plans to renew her lease.

"I like being off campus because it's quieter and there's more personal space," Sedgeman said. "It takes a little adjustment, but so far it has turned out really well. I have been very happy so far."

"We are filling up quickly," Daly said. "We're doing leasing for people who want to move in now through the end of this month, and we will continue leasing for people who want to move in this May



PHOTO PROVIDED

COLLEGE SQUARE — A group of students stand in front of two of the new townhomes that overlook the Liberty University monogram.

and August."

The floor plans for the townhomes in The Vue are the same.

"We are able to offer a

fully-furnished suite with a full-sized bed, a desk, a dresser and a walk-in closet for each student," Millner said. "Each town-

home spans a spacious 1,700-square feet on three floors. One of the best features of the Vue communities is they are ready for

students to move in."

The Vue rents to groups of three that share a common area that includes a kitchen, living room, dining area and bathroom, as well as a washer and dryer. According to Millner, the common area comes furnished with bar stools, a dining table, a sofa, chairs, a coffee table, and a wall-mounted 50-inch flat-screen television.

One fee, paid in monthly installments, covers the rent for the fully-furnished townhome, as well as cable, Internet, electricity allowance, water, sewage and trash pickup.

"There is a \$120 allowance on the electricity," Millner said. "If you go over the cap, the remaining cost has to be split between the roommates."

According to Daly, off-campus housing for students in the Lynchburg area is a very competitive market.

"The rent for a suite just went up to \$525 a month from \$475," Daly said. "Because of Lynchburg law, we are only able to fill three of the rooms, unless two or more of the individuals are related, but that doesn't affect cost."

According to Millner, they expect to finish the lease for The Vue @ College Square sometime in February, but they have more coming.

"We will also have The Vue @ Cornerstone coming soon, and we will begin pre-leasing for those apartments in February for \$475," Millner said.

Students interested in looking into The Vue @ College Square can visit their website at thevueva.com or go to their leasing office, located in the community off Wards Ferry Road.

EACHO is the asst. news editor.



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W. Tennis

Liberty 1
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W. Basketball

Liberty 91
Longwood 58

M. DI Hockey

Liberty 3
UMBC 5

M. DI Hockey

Liberty 5
Arizona 2

shootout in vines



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

ONSLAUGHT — In the last minute of play, Joel Vander Pol drives and dishes it to John Caleb Sanders.

Bucs outlast Flames

Derrick Battle
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Live and die by the three is the motto that the Liberty Flames (6-15, 2-5 Big South) and the Charleston Southern Buccaneers (12-6, 7-0 Big South) displayed Saturday, Jan. 26. While the Flames outshot the Buccaneers, Charleston Southern came out on

top 79-75. Down by three, Liberty guard Davon Marshall received a pass from guard John Caleb Sanders at the top of the key, with two seconds to go in regulation. Primed to tie the game with his eighth three, Marshall rose and released the ball while fading away from the bucket. Fans gasped for air as the ball twirled

toward the cylinder, only to graze the right side of the rim and go out of bounds. "We got two good looks down the stretch with (Tomasz Gielo's) three and (Marshall's) three, but they didn't go in," Head Coach Dale Layer said. With under a second remaining, Marshall fouled Charleston South-

ern guard Saah Nimley. The 5'8" guard made one of two free throws and put the game out of reach. The game boosted the Buccaneers eighth-straight win. They have also won 11 out of 12 games. "Charleston Southern is) the best team in the

See FIGHT, B3

Track team controls Open

Emily Brown
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In the first two days of competition at the Tolsma Indoor Track Center, Liberty's track and field team posted 14 wins during the Liberty Open, Jan. 25 and 26.

Overall, Head Coach Brant Tolsma was pleased with the team's effort.

"I think we made a step in the right direction," Tolsma said.

Liberty's first win of the meet came Friday in the 4x800-meter men's relay. John Sherret, Trevor Hope, Cole Honeycutt and Paul Arslain posted an impressive time of 7:59.23, qualifying for the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America (IC4A) Indoor Track and Field Championship, which will take place in March.

Senior Shelley Parker, a two-time Big South champion, also competed Friday, recording a second place finish in women's pole vault. She cleared 11-3.75, which places her in a tie for second in the conference this season.

"This week, I was just trying to build up my confidence and get some good training in for conference," Parker said. "I'm just trying to improve from week to week."

Freshman Erika Jackson also recorded an impressive second place finish Friday night in the pentathlon.

The Flames continued their success in the Liberty Open Saturday, as 13 of the team's 14 wins came on the second day of competition.

Redshirt senior Ryan Smith proved to be a force in the throwing events Saturday, sweeping the weight throw and shot put. He achieved a personal best with his 64-4 mark in the weight throw. The throw currently ranks No. 21 nationally. Smith also threw for 54-11.5 in the shot put.

"I felt like I was technically correct and doing the things I was supposed to be doing, and later in the season that'll pay off," Smith said about his performance.

Liberty proved to be dominant in other field events as well. The Flames took three of the top four places in the long jump, with Tarell Williams coming out on top. He jumped to 23-3.25 and set a personal record as he qualified for the IC4A championship.

Walt Aikens, a two-sport athlete who played football for Liberty this year, had an impressive showing in the event as well, tying for second place. He also qualified for the IC4A championship. Aikens tied for second in the high jump as well, clearing a height of 6-6.25.

Aikens' two events were the first he had ever competed in as a college athlete.

See OPEN, B2

Liberty dominates 91-58

Lady Flames tallied a season-high 29 assists against Longwood

Tom Foote
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The Lady Flames basketball team was able to shrug off a slow start in the first half and used brilliant passing and superior rebounding to roll past the Longwood Lady Lancers Saturday, Jan. 26, 91-58.

Liberty (15-6, 7-2 Big South) trailed 16-8 early, but with 13:54 remaining in the first half, redshirt senior Brittany Campbell hit a three-pointer that sparked a 14-0 run that gave the Lady Flames a lead they would not surrender.

Longwood (9-11, 6-3 Big South) was able to cut Liberty's lead down to three with 5:52 remaining in the half. However, the Lady Flames went on a 12-0 run capped by a three-point buzzer beater by sophomore point guard Emily Frazier, giving

the Lady Flames a 40-25 half-time lead.

Campbell, who had never scored in double digits in a home game, netted 11 of her career-high 19 points in the first half.

"It's so exciting, and I'm so blessed," Campbell said. "My teammates were giving me great passes tonight, and it was just so fun tonight. It was exciting to come up big for a big game, and now is the time for us to start getting better, and I think that we are doing that as a team."

After halftime, the Lady Flames fed off the momentum from the first half buzzer beater, expanding their lead to a 25-point advantage just 3:42 into the second half on a layup by redshirt senior Tolu Omotola, who finished with 15 points and nine rebounds.

Boosted by 61-percent shooting from the floor, the Lady

Flames continued to dominate in the second half, and hold the Lady Lancers to 35-percent shooting (12-34).

Campbell was not the only Lady Flame to post a career high, as redshirt Frazier also posted a career-high 13 assists.

Head Coach Carey Green was very pleased with his team's performance Saturday night, especially with the way Frazier and fellow point guard Reagan Miller were able to share the basketball.

"It's so important for (Frazier and Reagan), having 17 assists," Green said. "We only had a game goal of 17 assists. I was so pleased with how they set the tables, so to speak."

In total, the Lady Flames collected a season-high 29 assists on 36 field goals.

Redshirt senior Devon Brown overcame poor first-half shooting (3-14) with a terrific second



EMILY BECKER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

NO CHANCE — Devon Brown finishes in the lane.

half (6-7) to finish the night as the Lady Flames leading scorer, with 21 points.

"It's basketball. Some shots go in, some don't, and you still have to keep shooting," Brown said. "I still had confidence in my shot,

so I had to keep on shooting."

Perhaps the biggest reason behind the Lady Flames win was their dominance on the boards.

The Lady Flames outscored

See ASSIST, B3

Flames make a splash

Liberty defeats Marshall 119-81 in its home finale

Derrick Battle
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After defeating the Marshall Thundering Herd (5-6) 119-81 in their second and final home meet this season, the Liberty Lady Flames swim team (9-2, 4-1 CCSA) screamed "thank you" — thank you to their fans, that is.

The Lady Flames received their fourth-straight win against the Thundering Herd, winning eight of the 11 events showcased.

"In college meets, you don't get that many fans in the stands," redshirt junior Brye Ravettine said. "You would probably get maybe two or three parents. But here, when we have home meets, we fill up the bleachers, which is amazing."

Ravettine and sophomore Cori Gary led the Lady Flames with two wins each in individual events. In the 50-yard freestyle, Ravettine yet again broke under 24 seconds this season with a time of 23.77.

To carry along those victories, Gary set in-season best times in the 200 freestyle (1:54.40) and the 100 freestyle (51.78).

"We raced well," Head Coach Jake Shellenberger said. "Cori Gary in the 200, for example, was a breakout swim. Those were the fastest times she has swam

this season. In the 200 free, she broke her old time by five seconds, and the 100 free by over a second. Seeing improvement like that is huge."

The meet opened with Liberty finishing first and second in the 400-yard relay. Anchored by freshmen Kendall Hough and Laura Day, junior Bethany Wakeley and sophomore Chloe Thomas, the A-team was able to outlast the B-team by two tenths of a second with a time of 3:55.30.

Throughout the meet, the Lady Flames made a clean sweep in several swims, finishing first, second and third on multiple occasions. In the 200-yard backstroke, Hough led the attack with a time of 2:10.79, followed by freshman Rannidi Grubbs (2:13.39) and sophomore Jennifer Garzinski (2:18.98).

Junior Emilie Kaufman and freshman Jessica Reinhardt also had strong showings, winning back-to-back events in the 200-yard individual medley and in the 200-yard butterfly.

"We're excited about this victory, and we're excited for Davidson," Wakeley said. "We are ready to face the other teams that are a part of the meet as well. It will be a lot of fun. At conference, I think a lot of girls are going to surprise themselves in



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

AMBITION — Lady Flames swim toward the CCSA conference meet Feb. 21.

how well they will do."

Outmatched, the Thundering Herd highlighted their morning with a sweep in the 1000-yard freestyle. Sophomore Kaley Gregory clocked in at 10:36.60. Her teammates, freshman Megan Clemens and junior Tiffany Aeling, trailed behind and finished second and third.

This victory primed the Lady Flames to focus on the most important goal of this season.

"Conference is where we put all of our focus," Shellenberger said. "We want to swim fast there. I'm expecting a lot of best times. Of course, from second place, the only place to go is up to number one. Florida Gulf Coast wins the conference every year, and I'm not sure if we have enough to beat them this year, but we

want to get closer to them."

Over the past four years, Shellenberger has gracefully built a program that is now a threat in Division I.

"Each class that we have, we add a lot of talent," Shellenberger said. "Emily Kaufman, who transferred here from Rutgers ... is an unbelievable talent. We have added kids that have the potential to be good at the elite level. ... They're focused, they're dedicated and they want to be good."

Liberty will participate in the Davidson Duals Saturday, Feb. 2, before competing in the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association Swimming and Diving Championships Feb. 21-23.

BATTLE is the asst. sports editor.

OPEN continued from B1

"It's my first meet in four years, and it's a new experience. It takes some getting used to," Aikens said. "Coach Tolsma is a great coach. He's been working with me, so I'll be able to really get where I'm supposed to be."

The Lady Flames also put up impressive scores in the field. Janae Jones and Melissa Rohwer took first and second places in the triple jump, sailing to 39-9.75 and 39-2.5, respectively. Rohwer's mark qualified her for the Eastern College Athletic Championship for the first time this season.

Rohwer also had a first place finish in the long jump.

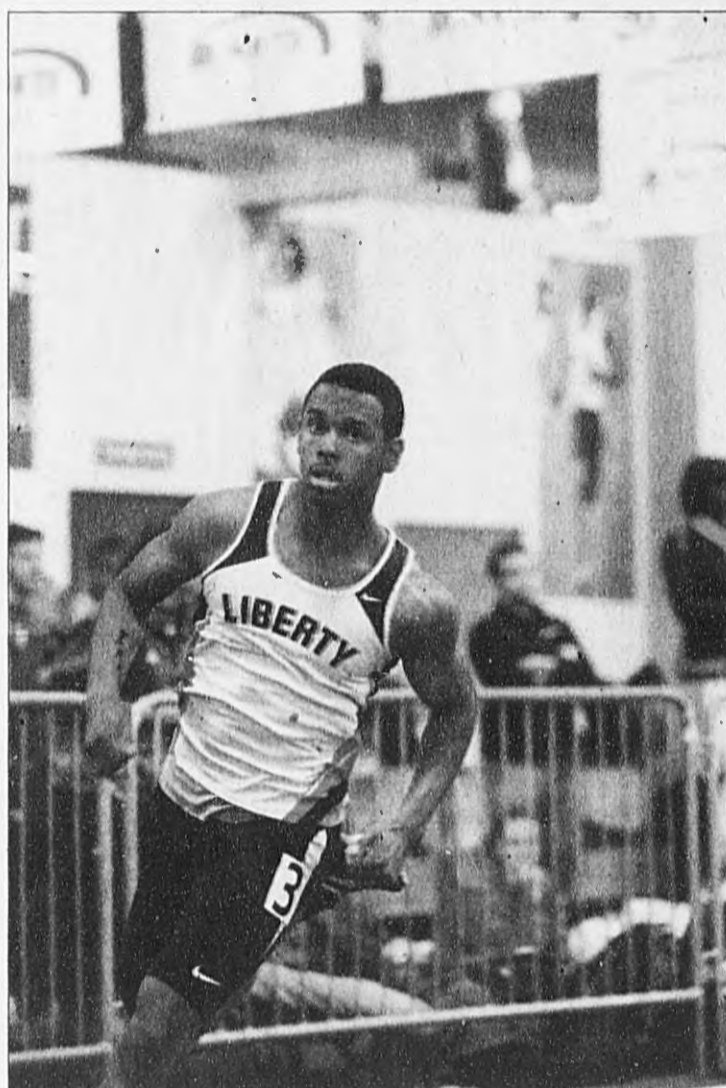
On the running side of the meet, Jared Cornfield picked up a victory in the 1,000-meter run. His time of 2:29.76 qualified him for the ICA meet for the first time this season.

Leonard Robbins also recorded a victory in the 400-meter dash for Liberty, posting a time of 50.09 seconds.

In the 500-meter dash, Arslain claimed his first individual victory and second overall victory of the meet.

Robbins, Arslain, ConRoy Smith and Kyle Gill teamed up to win the 4x400-meter relay in the final men's event of the meet. The team held off cross-town foe Lynchburg College to win with a time of 3:23.81. Sophomore runner Abigail Flower posted two event victories for the Lady Flames in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash, with times of 7.65 seconds and 25.42 seconds, respectively.

Mary Echols won the 400 for



SKILL — (Left) Aaron Johnson finished 3rd in the men's triple jump.

the Lady Flames, with a time of 59.12 seconds.

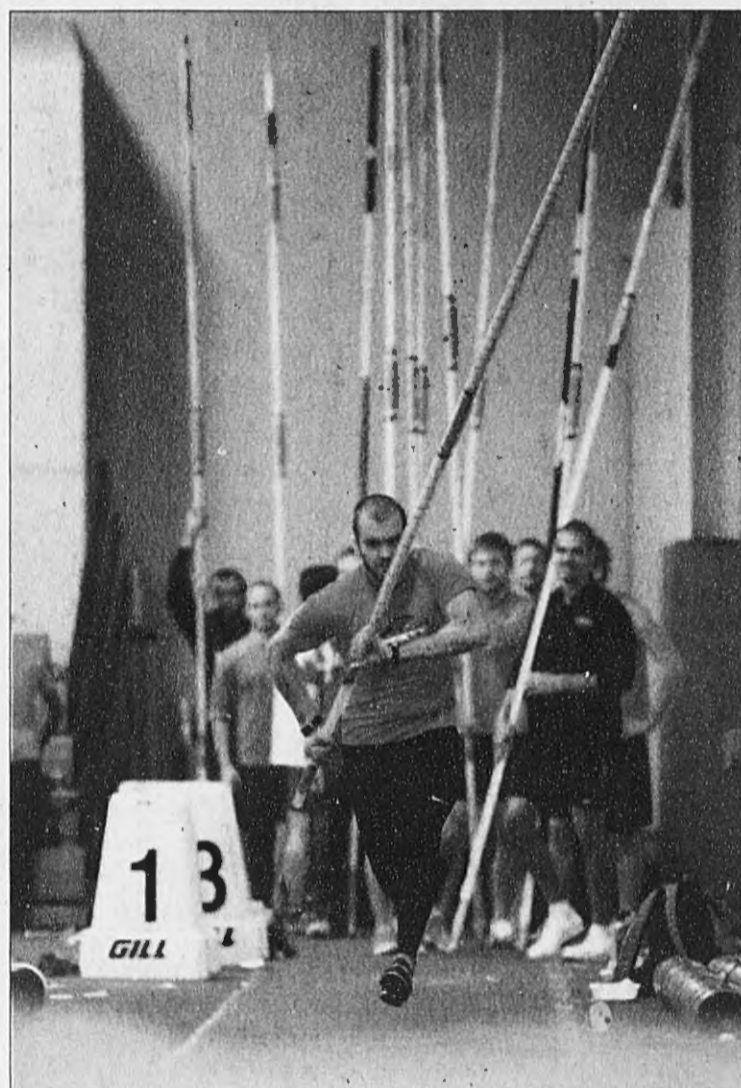
Liberty finished off the meet in striking fashion with a victory in the last event, the women's 4x400-meter relay, posting a time almost 10 seconds better than their nearest competitor.

"I'm pleased with the progress the team made from last weekend," Tolsma said. "I hope we can continue to make another

good step."

In addition to Liberty's student athletes, Liberty alumni Kolby Shepherd and Anthony Bryant also made their mark this weekend.

Shepherd, now a volunteer assistant coach for Liberty, competed unattached in the men's pole vault and set a new home record, clearing 17-feet-7-inches. He came up just short of



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

(Right) Cody Fridgen finished 3rd in the men's pole vault.

qualifying for the USA track and field championship.

"If I can jump high enough and get sponsors, I'd like to keep going," Shepherd said.

He hopes to clear 18-feet-0.5-inches — the USA championship-qualifying mark — soon, and said that he will continue to compete unattached in meets this year.

Meanwhile, Bryant set a new

meet record as he sailed to 52-feet-0.5-inches in the men's triple jump.

Liberty will travel to University Park, Pa., this weekend to compete in the team-scored Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup, hosted by Penn State.

BROWN is a sports reporter.

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Former B-ball standout shines in Europe

Jesse Sanders earns starting point guard spot on Aurora Basket Jesi in Italy's Lega Due

Kyle Harvey
kharvey@liberty.edu

Jesse Sanders' 2012 was quite a whirlwind. From his award-winning senior campaign as starting point guard for the Liberty Flames in the spring, to his new role as starting point guard for the professional-level Aurora Basket Jesi, Sanders has been on the move.

After finishing a successful career at Liberty, Sanders graduated, got married and moved to Europe.

"My agent, Sam Porter, is very well connected throughout Europe, and over the summer, he was working hard at finding a good place for me to get started as a professional player," Sanders said. "After looking at a few different offers, we both felt like the situation here in Jesi, Italy was ideal."

And so, a few months removed from walking the hallways of DeMoss, Sanders took off for Italy to fulfill his lifelong dream.

"I believe I've always had a dream of playing professionally," Sanders said. "It is awesome to look back over the past few years and see how God has blessed me and the efforts that I have put into my game. I couldn't be more thankful for my time at Liberty. I was challenged not only in my basketball and personal development, but more importantly, in my walk with the Lord."



PHOTO PROVIDED

TEMPLE OF APOLLO — Jesse Sanders poses amidst the ruins of Pompeii.

Liberty's preparation may have been good, but Italian basketball has required a little getting used to.

"(It) is very different from the States," Sanders said. "There is big difference in the style of play. In the States, there is more of an emphasis on open court play, athleticism, pressure defense and dribble-drive created offense, etc. Over here, they would rather play a much more controlled game. One team runs set plays against the other. Their set defense."

Sanders' team plays in the Lega Due,

which is translated as League Two. There are four different professional leagues in Italy, and Lega Due is the second highest level of competition.

According to Sanders, despite soccer being Italy's favorite game, public interest and support for basketball is high.

"The Italians are very emotional and passionate fans," he said.

The Aurora Basket Jesi — frequently dubbed "Fileni BPA Jesi" after their corporate sponsor — played their first game Oct. 7, defeating Brescia, 73-58. Sanders

started, and played 34 minutes, recording 14 points, two assists and four rebounds in his European debut.

Through 15 games, Sanders has averaged 31 minutes of play, 10.6 points, 1.8 assists and 4.6 rebounds per game. He still sports his familiar jersey, No. 25.

As for living in Italy, Sanders said that there is a lot to love. Living in such close proximity to several ancient cities, the history and the travel opportunities have made for a very enjoyable time for both Sanders and his wife, Courtney (Dickinson) Sanders.

"It is still crazy to us that we can just hop in the car and drive to places like Rome and Florence," Sanders said. "Overall, we have really enjoyed our time here and have seen it as sort of an extended honeymoon."

"Our little town is so nice," he said. "It feels like we stepped into a movie scene when you walk into the city square and see all of the vendors selling various baked goods and homemade scarfs."

But what do they miss the most?

"Sometimes, we feel that we would pay just about anything to have a Chick-fil-A sandwich or some good Texas-style barbecue," Sanders said. "The Italian food here is obviously great, but they will literally eat pasta twice a day, seven days a week."

HARVEY is the sports editor.

FIGHT continued from B1

league, and they deserve it," Laver said. "We are the most improved team. We were battling to stay in there, but we were three rebounds short of winning this game."

Marshall and Nimley battled throughout the night, trading three-point baskets with each other. Both guards combined to nail 13 of the 21 total threes made by both teams.

"It was a fun battle for me," Marshall said. "They told me coming in that he was one of the best point guards in the conference, so I was just up to that, ready to go at him."

Charleston Southern, which leads the nation in three point shooting, went 10-25 (40.0 percent) from beyond the arc, while Liberty went 11-27 (40.7 percent).

Liberty opened the game on a 7-3 run thanks to guard Tavares Speaks, who made the Flames first field goal in the starting five minutes of the game. Speaks finished the first half, leading all scorers with 13 points.

"I just wanted to be aggressive," Speaks said. "They were being aggressive on the offensive end early, so I tried to match their intensity."

The Flames began the second half trailing, 41-38. Unable to convert on shots, Liberty was held scoreless for two minutes of the second half, while the Buccaneers jumped out to an eight-point lead. With 11:52 left in the game, Nimley drained a three from the top of the key to widen the gap to 62-53.

"I'm starting to feel it," Nimley said as he back-peddled on defense.

"(Nimley is) a tough guy," Speaks said. "He's small and uses his body very well. He gets his teammates involved and is a very unselfish floor general, so he is a very good player."

However, Nimley's taunting lowered his awareness, leaving Marshall open, who responded and hit another three. A frustrated Nimley began to argue with the officials, which led to a technical foul. Marshall went to the line and hit both free throws, which cut the lead to four with

11:25 left.

With 8:30 to go in the second half, both teams traded three point baskets. In a span of 30 seconds, Liberty hit two three-point baskets and the Buccaneers hit one, cutting the visiting team's lead to four.

The Buccaneers pushed their lead back up to eight with 6:21 left in the second half, leading Laver to call a timeout. When play resumed, Marshall hit another three.

On the defensive end, center Joel Vander Pol stole the ball and pushed the ball up the court to Sanders, who missed a jumper. Forward JR Coronado was able to grab an offensive rebound, but was fouled in the process.

After making the first shot, Coronado missed the second. However, Vander Pol gathered the ball and managed to put it in, cutting the gap to 74-72 with 4:55 left.

On their next possession down the court, Nimley continued to pressure the Flames defense, gathering two offensive rebounds off his missed shots. After dribbling back out, he released another three, but was blocked by guard Larry Taylor. Speaks gathered the ball and pushed it up the court to Sanders for a layup, tying the game at 74-74 with 4:00 to go.

The Sanders bucket was the last field-goal made by the Flames as they went on a four-minute drought to end the game.

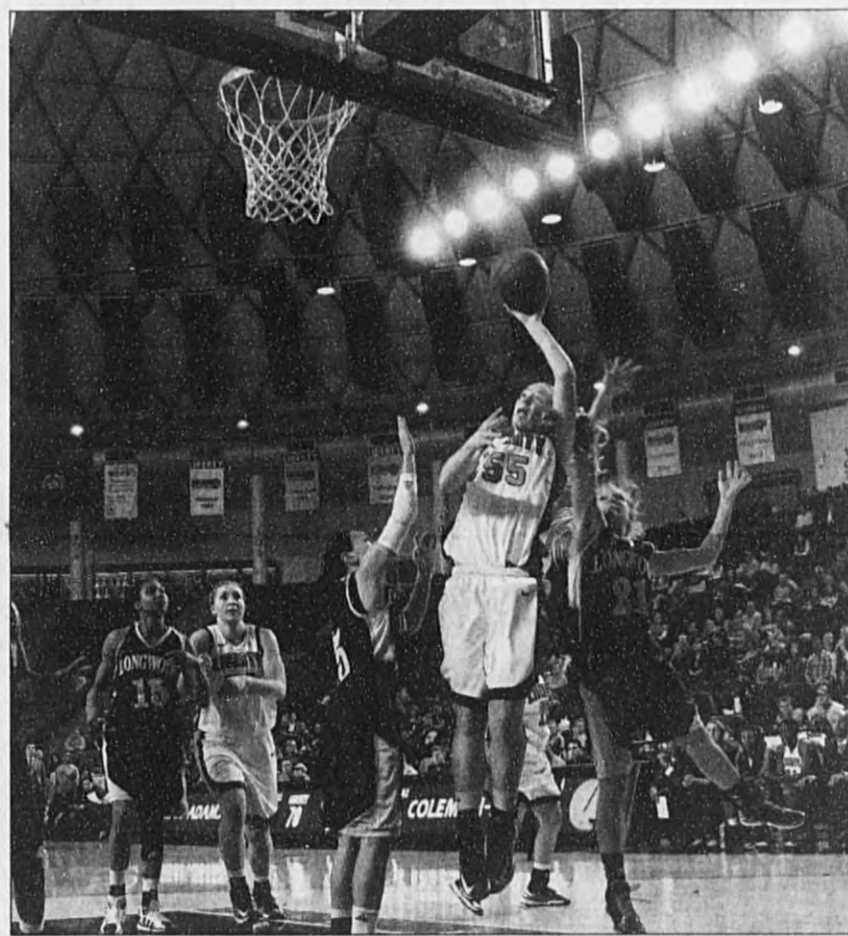
Marshall finished the night with 23 points and four assists. Speaks had 15 points and four rebounds, while Sanders added nine points, five rebounds and four assists.

Charleston Southern had four players in double-figures, led by Nimley, who had 23 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

"(Nimley) took 23 shots. I think we did a pretty good job on him," Laver said. "He's probably the player of the year in the league, but we made it hard on him. He hit big shots and has a heart of a lion. I thought (Marshall) stood toe-to-toe with him."

Liberty will host the Big South North leaders the Campbell Fighting Camels tonight at 7 p.m.

BATTLE is the asst. sports editor.



EMILY BECKER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

JUMPER — Freshman Ashley Rininger attempts a shot in traffic.

ASSIST continued from B1

the Lady Lancers 52-16 in the paint and out-rebounded them 56-30, expanding their lead as the top rebounding team in the country.

Redshirt junior Jasmine Gardner and redshirt freshman Ashley Rininger led the team with 12 rebounds each. Rininger also added 16 points to post her second career double-double.

Lady Lancers guard Mieke Elkington scored 15 points, and forward Chelsea Coward also chipped in with 12, in a losing effort.

After the first half of conference

play, Liberty stands in a three-way tie with Winthrop and Presbyterian.

"The second half is going to be a little tougher, because everyone has seen everyone," Green said. "We have got some tough games on the road, and we have to take care of business from here on out. Right now, at this point of time, if we slip up, it could cost you. Our goal is to be No. 1."

The Lady Flames will return to action when they travel to take on the Campbell Lady Fighting Camels Thursday, Jan. 31.

FOOTE is a sports reporter.



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KYLE MILLIGAN | LIBERTY CHAMPION

KYLE MILLIGAN | LIBERTY CHAMPION

DOWNTOWN — The Texas Inn is located near the corner of Main and 5th streets.

CORNERSTONE — The new T-Room is a modern version of the original diner.

T-Room opens second location

Everything is bigger in Texas, but this restaurant franchise has made a name for itself by keeping things small

Emily Webster
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The sound of burgers sizzling on the grill and eggs frying in pans have been heard more clearly at the Cornerstone Apartments on Greenview Drive near Timberlake Road ever since a new Texas Inn opened Dec. 19, 2012.

Eddie Eagle, owner of the Texas Inn, said that the expansion was largely based off the desire to reach more people in the Timberlake and Forest area as well as Liberty University students.

Commonly known as the T-

Room because of the smaller eating space — the original version only features a handful of stools — the new building has made changes from the downtown building, such as more seating, new equipment and the addition of fries to the menu.

Eagle said that the Cornerstone location has greatly benefited the customers and that there has been an increase in Liberty students coming in to eat. The additional location has also given loyal customers the chance to experience a newer version of the classic restaurant, according to Eagle.

"I hope that we can keep the same service and develop new relationships with new customers out here."

— EDDIE EAGLE

"I hope that we can keep the same service and develop new relationships with new customers out here like we've done down there for years," Eagle said.

Known for its Cheesy Western burger, the T-Room regularly attracts Liberty students. Janae Stracke, a junior at Liberty, crossed this item off her list after

experiencing the T-Room and the famous Cheesy Western.

Stracke said that going to the T-Room is a must for all Liberty students and that the old-time feel of the diner reminds her of an old '50s café — creating a fun environment for all ages.

"I think a Liberty student needs to cross this off their

bucket list because it has made a name for itself," Stracke said. "What it's known for is its Cheesy Western, which is a very unique burger topped with egg. Some people think that sounds weird, but I actually thought it was really good."

Time will tell whether the expansion to Cornerstone will be profitable for Eagle and the rest of the Texas Inn team, but for now, the Cheesy Western lives on.

WEBSTER is a feature reporter.

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LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
 Student Activities



PHOTO PROVIDED

BLUSH — The network strives to spiritually challenge and encourage women.

Training leaders

Liberty prepares to host women's conference

Sara Warrender
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A frequent visitor of Liberty University's women's evangelism classes and founder of The Blush Network, Autumn Miles is known for encouraging women across the country through her ministry efforts.

The Blush Network is a ministry whose main purpose is to spiritually challenge the way young women think. As a permanent partner with Liberty University's women's ministry, The Blush Network will visit Liberty Feb. 6 for an all-day event.

"It's awesome really seeing the female body of Christ come together," Miles said. "I am so grateful that I get the chance to challenge people to love their Jesus."

The Blush Network offers one-night events at churches, conferences, leadership development courses for women and an online blog that shares valuable Christian insight with the community.

The conferences consist of four worship sessions, breakout sessions with different speakers and a concert to end the night. The conferences are solely for women, but men are encouraged to join in the worship at the finishing concert.

The conference will be held in the Towns Auditorium in the Religion Hall, with doors opening at 9 a.m., and the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Last year at Liberty, approximately 500 women spent the day together worshipping, and, according to Miles, The Blush Network is hoping that the number will grow this year.

Janette...ikz, an artist whose ministry consists of poetry, music and dance, will perform at the conference. A Dave Barnes concert will close the event.

"This is a time to celebrate, and that is why we do the concerts," Miles said. "We need to celebrate the Lord and celebrate what He's done, and that's one way we do that."

According to Miles, preparations for these conferences begin a year in advance, with 16 staff members, 120 leadership program participants and 70 volunteers working closely to fulfill Miles' God-given vision.

"The foundation of The Blush Network is prayer and seeking the Lord," Miles said. "We pray a lot about the conference themes. We must have the anointing of the Holy Spirit on each of us."

The theme for the conference in February is teaching women to understand what it means to be appointed by God for this moment and knowing how to work toward His glory in all circumstances. According to Miles, some specific topics include divine appointment, vision and the challenges that young women face in today's culture.

"The Blush Network can delve deeper into certain fields because they have a good understanding of what women are facing," Liberty freshman Grace Vohden said.

After overcoming an abusive marriage, Miles can relate to the hardships many women face daily and seeks to give them the strength to overcome their struggles through Christ.

"I have such an intense passion because I know I have been forgiven much," Miles said. "Those who have been forgiven much, love much."

The conference is \$20, and the concert is \$10.

"God definitely uses Autumn Miles to speak to college girls as well as women who are older, really touching on circumstances and issues all women go through," Jennifer Biereder, a sophomore at Liberty who has attended a Blush evening session, said.

Tickets for this event can be purchased on The Blush Network official website, theblushnetwork.com.

WARRENDER is an assistant section editor.

Review: Thoughts from Taco Bell

Greg Leasure
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Matt Ouellette's first book, "Thoughts That Fell from a Taco Shell," released Jan. 3, turned out completely different than what he anticipated. But, then again, what more could he expect from a book that was almost entirely written from inside his local Taco Bell?

With a little encouragement from Ouellette's wife, Missy, what began as a letter written for his kids to read when they grew older about how to genuinely live out their Christian faith, transformed into his first book.

"I was reading through Proverbs, and it's all really practical stuff," Ouellette said. "I wish I had a book like that from my dad, and I decided to write one for my kids. It just happened to start in Taco Bell."

Ouellette, a youth pastor at Grace Evangelical Free Church in Waterville, Maine, constructed his book like a Taco Bell employee assembling a hot, fresh burrito — tossing in humor, funny personal anecdotes and stories about his family like ground beef, lettuce and cheese, supported by a hard shell of biblical truth.

Readers looking for a cookie-cutter Christian living book might be caught off guard by short chapters resembling journal entries more than anything else, but Ouellette's sense of humor and ability to make accurate spiritual analogies out of otherwise mundane events more than make up for its unconventional appearance.

"It was kind of a series of thoughts," Ouellette said. "I definitely wanted my kids to own their faith and kind of drop the religious repetition that Christianity can always offer. I wanted them to really own it themselves and get past the point of just rituals."

Each chapter combines a tale from a trip to Taco Bell, a story from Ouellette's childhood, college years or his family with a corresponding thought about his misplaced "attempts to impress God" and his experience with various pitfalls of the Christian life. The 26-year-old author even inserted self-drawn, comical cartoons between chapters.

"(The book is so sporadic," Ouellette said. "Each chapter stands alone but (not trying to impress God) was the one common theme."

Ouellette's conversational tone allows readers to relax as if they were paging through a collection of friendly, God-centered advice rather than a complex, theological analysis of God's grace.

"It's definitely the way I converse with people all the time," Ouellette said. "I wanted the reader to feel like they're eating a taco with me."

Although making light of the strange occurrences that seem to be commonplace in Ouellette's favorite Taco Bell is always fun, he hopes that readers will come away with a better understanding of God's view of their walk with Him.

"Sometimes, we don't look at our failures in the right way, and we kind of brush it over," Ouellette said. "Hopefully (the book) would bring us to a better awareness in that sense. Also, some of us just want to give up and focus so much on our failures. In that sense, we get to see God's grace poured out."

Ouellette drew an annual publishing contest held by Deep River Books, and almost two years after being notified that he had won, he released his book.

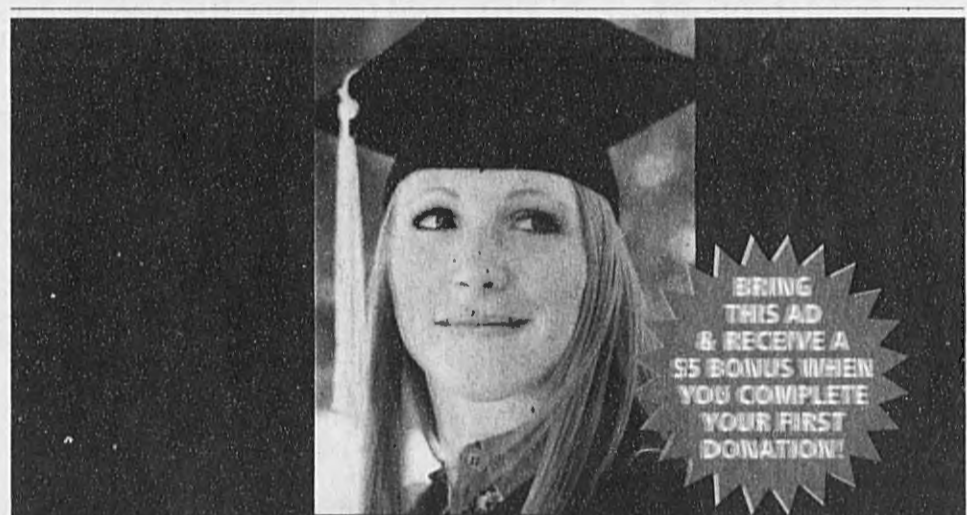
"I asked how much it would cost, and they said 'nothing,'" Ouellette said. "I thought, 'Nothing you're talking my language.'"

Ouellette frequently writes on his website, matthebun.com, but his future plans as an author have yet to be made.

"I'm not opposed to writing, although the idea of writing another book is daunting," Ouellette said. "I'm really enjoying it for now, and I'll just see what the future presents."

It is anyone's guess as to whether Ouellette will write another book in the future, but if he does, chances are it will be written from his favorite spot by the window inside his local Taco Bell.

LEASURE is the feature editor.



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Snow bound

SA plans annual ski trip to Wintergreen

Melissa Skinner
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The winter season is well underway at Liberty University as students plan their annual trip to Wintergreen Resort.

The facility is located in Central Virginia in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and according to Student Activities' website, the trip gives students the chance to take advantage of lower-than-normal prices.

According to Student Activities, those students interested in attending this year's trip are asked to meet at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 31, in the Student Activities Office.

The price of the event is \$15 for a lift ticket and \$30 for a lift ticket and ski rentals. According to Student Activities, transportation will also be provided.

Students who attended in previous years continue to rave about this wonderful trip.

"My favorite thing from the Wintergreen ski trip is being around friends, enjoying the weather and the beautiful world that God has created," Natalia Ivanova, a junior business major, said. "I would definitely go again."

"My favorite aspect about skiing is being able to go up on the ski-lift," Catherine Thomas, a junior nursing student, said. "I have chosen to go on the trip again — because of the great friendships made, but also because it is an excellent experience with Student Activities."

Although many students said that they would have liked to attend, all slots for the trip are now full, according to Student Activities.

"I would go because I have never skied on real snow," Stephen Fraser, a junior youth ministry major, said. "You could say that it could be something on my bucket list. I ski at Snowflex, but everyone says that it is nothing like real snow, so I would love to experience that sometime."

Student Activities offers a multitude of different events to give students a break from classes.

"Having activities where anybody can come and enjoy is a great way to meet people and make new friends," Ivanova said. "They do contribute to the fun around campus because the different activities they plan are fun to attend, and it is a great study break."

For further information, go to liberty.edu/sa.

SKINNER is a feature reporter.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WORSHIP — The Campus Band led thousands of Liberty students in song during the three-day Spiritual Emphasis Week.

Spiritual recharge

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"Joseph's character was greater than the promise of pleasure and the possibility of punishment," Clayton King, the founder and president of Crossroads Worldwide, said.

The students of Liberty University fell silent as they watched King's facial expressions illustrate the life of Joseph, King's arms waving as his voice echoed over the Vines Center crowd. Using Joseph's stories as examples, King began Spiritual Emphasis Week Jan. 23 by covering topics such as dreams, detours, dungeons and the destinies of Christ's followers.

"Some of us will wind up in places we feel like we don't deserve, and we're sitting there thinking, 'What about me?'" King said. "In reality, God is sitting there saying, 'I'm preparing you for something greater.'"

According to King's website, he began ministry in jails and churches at age 14. Known for his passion, King often challenges students with difficult questions and topics.

"Some of us are nothing more than stubborn fools because we convince ourselves that we are smarter than God and that His rules don't apply to us," King said. "With God, there are no accidents. Salvation is not just a point, it's a process."

According to King, Joseph

probably believed he would live his life in his father's divine legacy, when in reality, he faced many trials for staying true to the dream God had called him to achieve. Joseph's trials and King's open way of sharing his father's recent death with the students allowed his listeners to relate to him on a personal level.

"It was cool how he gave the idea that Joseph might have been this kind of snotty, spoiled kid, and God had to change him to be the person that He called him to be," Liberty freshman John Lawson said.

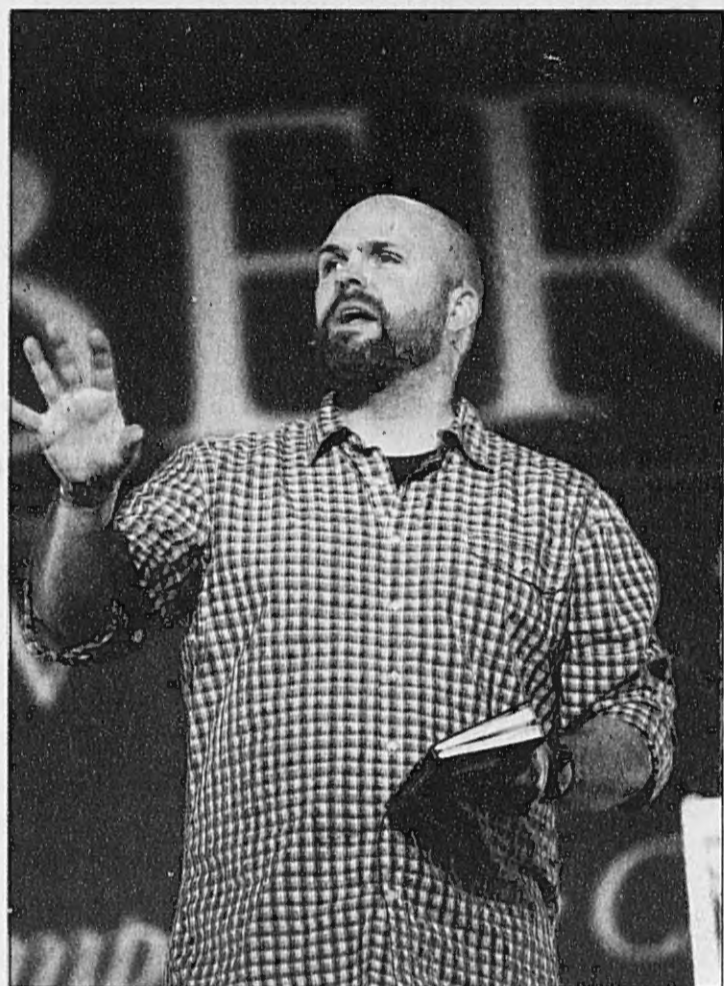
King challenged students to look past their own dreams and place God at the center of their lives. He encouraged students to gain a new perspective on the pressures of everyday life.

"Stop looking at your classes, at everything, as a bother, but as preparation," King said. "God cannot use you for what's next if you're not responsible with what's now."

King is known for visiting students around campus, meeting at certain dorms, or having dinner with students at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall in order to develop relationships with the current body of Liberty.

"I could never, ever get tired of this place and the openness of the students to the word of God," King said. "If I can go over and hang out with them for a half-hour and let them know that they're a part of the community here, that's important."

As one of Liberty's campus



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

PREACHING — King taught lessons from the life of Joseph.

pastors, King is a frequent visitor of Liberty and speaks to the student body as a connected link to the school. Throughout his messages, students are often heard laughing, applauding and cheering on their pastor.

"Sometimes I find it difficult to really get into the presence of God at my church, but in convocation it's easier somehow," Liberty sophomore Sarah Witt said. "I feel more at home."

According to King, the high-

light of his ministry is seeing people saved. The reaction of Liberty to his message Thursday night, Jan. 24, demonstrated this highlight as hundreds of students came to the stage in response to God's call.

WARRENDER is an assistant section editor.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

SADA art show spotlights faculty talent

Kourtney Trivett
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The Liberty University Department of Studio and Digital Arts opened its Faculty Art Exhibition Thursday, Jan. 24.

Todd Smith, Studio and Digital Arts (SADA) chair, said that a variety of work is being displayed in the gallery from SADA professors. "The works of art include drawings, paintings, sculpture, graphic design, video, animation and photography," Smith said.

The free show will continue to run through Feb. 4 with the works of 13 Studio and Digital Arts faculty exhibiting work. The submis-

sions include photography, drawing, digital art and studio art.

Thursday evening, people quickly formed a line to see the opening of the gallery.

"The turnout was fantastic," Smith said. "Students, faculty and visitors from the community attended."

Liberty senior Sandi Owens was one of the students who attended the opening of the gallery.

"I enjoyed seeing all the works of art," Owens said. "It was a really cool experience to see all the talent."

Smith said that the Department of Studio and Digital Arts plans to host many more exhibits inside

their fourth-floor gallery during the remainder of the semester.

"We will have a Graphic Design Exhibit, Senior Studio Art Exhibit and Juried Student Art Show — all in the Liberty University Art Gallery," Smith said. "Another exhibit, the Larger-than-Life exhibit, will be shown on the second and third floor of DeMoss Hall in the (Integrated Learning Resource Center)."

The Art Gallery, located in room 4069 inside DeMoss Hall, will continue to show various kinds of art throughout the year.

TRIVETT is a feature reporter.



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

SKILL — Liberty faculty's art provides an example for students.