



Lady Flames No. 1 B1



Sophomore survival guide B5



Trump report card A4

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UN'CONVO'TIONAL MEASURES

New security checks at Convocation seek to protect Liberty students

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The Liberty University Police Department, in the rollout of the spring semester, has implemented a new policy that requires all attendees to walk through a metal detector and have their bags checked before entering the Vines Center in an attempt to ensure students' safety.

"Convocation is the largest gathering of Christians which occurs

on a regular basis," Ron Sloan, associate vice president of security and public safety, said in an email. "The safety of those in attendance is our top priority. These security measures were implemented to help accomplish that goal."

Metal detectors and bag checks were implemented at the first Convocation of the semester Jan. 24 for both students and guests. However, according to a News & Advance story, Convocation guests were required to pass through met-

al detectors during the Fall 2017 semester.

LUPD sent out several emails with tips for students attending Convocation to lessen the inconvenience of the metal detectors. The department suggested arriving early, as all six entrances open at 9:45 a.m., and having Flames Passes ready to show before entering the Vines Center. For students who carry concealed weapons, they must have their required Liberty-issued concealed carry permit in

addition to their Flames Pass.

"We encourage everyone attending to come early," Sloan said. "If you don't need to bring a bag — don't. If you must, have all the pockets open for a good inspection. Follow the directions of the security staff, and be patient."

Sloan also emphasized that students be respectful and attentive of security staff.

"Remember that the security staff is there to protect and serve the (Liberty) community," Sloan

said. "Always cooperate and respect any request made of you by security personnel."

Though the increased security at the first Convocation of the semester surprised students, resulting in lines stretching across Main Campus, Sloan said things went smoothly.

See **CONVO SECURITY**, A2



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LINING UP — The new security checks at Convocation include bag checks and metal detectors, greatly increasing the wait time to get into the Vines Center.

On-campus life with off-campus freedom

Residence plan emancipates upperclassmen

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Liberty University upperclassmen will have the opportunity to experience on-campus living with certain off-campus freedoms through the Office of Residence Life's Independent Housing Program for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Students accepted into the pilot program will live on East 40 or 41 and will be exempt from curfew checks and cleanliness checks. The program offers accepted students the same apartment-style dorms as every other East Campus building with

the same prices based on a typical two-person or three-person bedroom.

The Independent Housing Program will be open to 180 students who are juniors or seniors by credit and have no more than 12 points on their record. Dustin DuBose, the executive director of Residence Life, said this program was developed to address the difference in maturity between older students and incoming freshmen.

"There's obviously some growth and maturity that happens in the time that (students are) here," DuBose said. "And so, the question we really

started asking ourselves was, 'What does that look like practically on the hall?'"

Under the pilot program, students are still required to check into Convocation with their building's RA and not enter dorms of the opposite gender. However, DuBose said Residence Life is hoping to attract mature upperclassmen who do not need the boundaries of curfew and cleanliness checks.

"Do you really need someone checking up on you every three days if you're cleaning?" DuBose said. "Do you need someone checking that you're OK every night? Maybe not. Hopefully, juniors and seniors are mature enough to handle that."

Sarah Faith Crozier, a junior nursing major who lives off campus, said she believes this program is a step in the right direction because older students should not need the same protections as younger students.



ERIN COVEY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

DOING LIFE — The new housing program for juniors and seniors will not have any room checks or curfew.

See **HOUSING**, A8

Delegating to the masses

SGA faces internal division

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Liberty University Student Government Association is experiencing division as the House of Delegates has been trying to pass taboo and controversial bills, many of which directly contradict the Liberty Way.

Among the resolutions that were proposed last semester was one to allow foul language, another to allow drinking off campus and another that would allow consumption of tobacco products. These bills were all passed by the House of Delegates but were either shut down by the Student Senate or vetoed by SGA President Caleb Johnson.

"When (the drinking bill) came to my office I was completely shocked," Johnson said. "I immediately wrote 'denied' as soon as it hit my desk."

Johnson said the House of Delegates has a different, more libertarian mindset and that it is responsible for the boundary-pushing legislation.

"I believe the reason for this legislation is due to a trickle-down ideology from house leadership," Johnson

said. "There's leadership all throughout the house that is really geared to 'no-rules.' The people in house leadership want us to become more like Baylor. They want us to strip away the Liberty Way."

Vice President of SGA Jared Cave is also surprised by the type of legislation the House of Delegates is pushing forward but thinks it may be wishful thinking because of the curfew revisions SGA helped pass last year.

"It kind of baffles us how many pieces of legislation have come through that are not going to happen," Cave said. "I think SGA has always had a little bit of a track record for wanting to repeal rules. It started with the curfew stuff, but I think it's always had that past. More recently it seems like there is more legislation that is trying to get passed to allow cussing or alcohol or tobacco."

Despite the unrest members of SGA are experiencing, Speaker of the House of Delegates Caleb Fitzpatrick is seeing unity in the house as the resolutions are passing.

See **SGA**, A6

WHAT'S NEWS @ LIBERTY

Liberty online divinity student and Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles led his team to victory over the New England Patriots at **Super Bowl LI, Feb. 4** and was voted MVP of the game.

Liberty's Ph.D. in **Counselor Education & Supervision program** was certified by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs. Students in this program learn how to train counseling professionals.

Social work student Anna Nokes received the December **Champion of the Month** Award for her work in the Social Work Club, the Community Care Initiative and Celebrate Recovery at Liberty.

The Liberty Flames wrestling team won the **NCWA National Duals final** Saturday, Jan. 27, becoming the first team to win the competition three times.

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

News

Planning and construction looks ahead to commencement at Williams Stadium. **A3**

Opinion

The popular HQ Trivia app demonstrates the prevalence of technology addiction. **A4**

Sports

Lady Flame swimmer Prudence Rooker ranked second in program history. **B3**

Feature

Liberty graduate Jarryn Bailey recounts her experience interning at the White House. **B8**

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