By Robyce Smith

Yes Lavinia, there is a Santa Claus. He was sitting in his red velvet, white fur-trimmed suit with bells on one arm, handing out candy to the good children of the community, both young and old, belting out many a merry "ho, ho, ho," and "I love you sweetheart — have a Merry Christmas."

"Hi there, Santa!" I said as I approached, and handed him a candy cane. "Quite a bit of snow up there this morning," he said, much to the surprise of an unbelieving grown-up. "To keep his team out of the public eye, Santa!"

"Oh, she's doing fine, too," the jolly red man said. "She wanted to come with me this time but couldn't make it. She's keeping the North Pole up while I'm here — it's a big job, you know — looking over all the toy production. She helps the supervisor."

We were interrupted by a young boy and his mother. "Go on, tell Santa what you want," the mother was saying as she nudged the child up to generous St. Nick with her bags of goodies.

"I want a Screaming Demon for Christmas, Santa," he slurred in a voice barely audible to those of us on the street, before scurrying back to his mother's side. "OK, son," Santa said in this matter-of-fact, efficient voice, "You be good and I'll see you on Christmas Eve."

I learned a lot about Santa Claus today. Lavinia. For instance, did you know that he keeps his reindeer stored at the Memphis Academy? To keep his team out of the public eye of White County until Dec. 24. Santa drives a green four-door Maverick that he keeps parked on the street by his hut.

I asked him about his reindeer's behavior and he said they were quite an obedient group: "I've had only one wreck in all my years of flying," he told me. When I asked where he stayed while here in Searcy, Santa pointed to the little red house behind him and said, "In there, unless it gets really cold. I have grandchildren and many friends in Searcy, also. I used to live in Searcy, you know."

"This is my thirty-fifth year to be here," the ageless Santa continued. "I also go to Beebe on Mondays and Bradford on Tuesdays and will be here in Searcy on the afternoons of Dec. 18 and 19," he said.

Being swarmed with excited children, Santa was a very busy man today, Lavinia. So I left him and his enchanted gathering with a "Merry Christmas" and a handful of candy.

The final course, Psychology of Exceptional Children, will be the major in special education. The first, Methods of Teaching the Mentally Retarded, will give advanced reading, conversation and composition combined with a review of grammar, Prerequisites will be the elementary course or two years of high school Spanish. Introduction to Spanish Literature is a three hour course which will be a survey of major authors and their works. Three courses will be added for a major is special education. The first, Methods of Teaching the Mentally Retarded, will give advanced reading, conversation and composition combined with a review of grammar, underlying philosophy and general goals of teaching the mentally retarded.

Nature and Needs of the Mentally Retarded will emphasize physical, motor, mental, language, emotional and social development and discussion of the necessary curriculum to meet their special needs. The final course, Psychology of Exceptional Children, will explore the educational and psychological needs of these children. These courses, combined with the ones already offered, will make up a 51-hour program. The intermediate level course, which will be a survey of major authors and their works.

Dr. Joe Pryor, associate professor of business education, and Dr. Harold Bowie, director of Research and Chairmen of the Health and Physical Education Department, were each last month honored for "outstanding and noteworthy contributions" in their respective fields.

Mrs. Tucker was named Teacher of the Year at the Arkansas Business Education Association convention in Hot Springs. She has been a member of the association for sixteen years, serving as president in 1967 and district director in 1969. As a member of the Governor's Council on Education in 1967, Mrs. Tucker assisted in recommendations of criteria for business education teachers. In 1971, she was named Distinguished Teacher at Harding.

Her husband, Buford Tucker, is the executive secretary of Harding's Alumni Association.

Dr. Olree has served as president of the Arkansas Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and president of its Research Section and as editor of the American College of Sports Medicine and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

For his "intense and continued interest, outstanding service, and constant research into the realm of ways and means to increase the effectiveness and cause of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation," the Arkansas Association of HPER named Dr. Olree as a recipient of its 1972 Honor Award.
When you think of Christmas as the season of giving, who comes to mind as the secular epitomy of this giving spirit? Santa Claus? Well, yes but we of The Bison staff put President Clifton L. Ganus right up there next to the jolly man in red.

We are not the only ones with this thought. The Alumni Association grabbed the scoop back in October by naming Dr. Ganus Harding's "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" at the Black and Gold Banquet.

How does Dr. Ganus exemplify the Christmas spirit of giving? He does it all year. He gives himself to Harding College, to Christian education — behind the president's desk, on the intramural fields, in his home, across the country in the college plane, before pulpits and banquet lecterns.

This he has done with results. Since assuming the presidency in 1953 and initiating his "Decade of Development," Dr. Ganus has seen H.C.'s enrollment grow from 1,472 to 2,095 and Keller, Stephens and Harbin Halls, the Stevens Art Center, and Lee Music Center and the new science building completed.

Most people — students don't know much about Dr. G. except that he occasionally makes chapel announcements does a lot of the same.

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By Martha Townsend

Now I am sure that everyone has heard the stories about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman. But has anyone heard the touching story about the time that our own ill-fated mascot, Bennie Bison, helped Santa out one desperate Christmas Eve?

Well, I'm here to give it to you straight.

Once a foggy Arkansas Christmas Eve quite a few years back, Santa was making his usual route through Searcy, tackling the houses without chimneys first because he liked to save the easiest till last.

One of these visits that it happened. Santa was on his way to visit all of the lonesome students left in Grad dorm over the holidays to bring some cheer into their hearts at Christmas time.

All of a sudden, believe it or don't, it began to snow! It was an unusual snow for Arkansas, too, for it was coming down hard and thick.

Now Santa hadn't planned on snow this early in the trip. But the old folks set his teeth and pulled up on the Grad roof. But just as he landed, Prancer, who was supposed to land at that night, fell off the other end of the roof. The harness kept him from falling down three flights, but didn't save him from a broken leg.

Now this was nothing short of tragedy for Santa. He still had a heavy load to pull and none of the other reindeers had the experience in leading the herd.

But, unknown to dear old St. Nick, a student below had awakened at the sound of the howling storm. He was at the window marveling at the wondrous white stuff (he was from Florida) when he heard a loud clatter on the roof.

Then too his amusement he beheld a reindeer dangling in front of his window! Now this was truly unique. He sat for a moment watching the horned creature hanging to and fro across the window. Then he began reflecting.

"Now this is Christmas Eve," our bright lad thought. "That there must be one of those things that Bennie would do. And the only person I ever heard of making 'em was Santa Claus. Well, stout my mouth, I bet it must be Bennie." So the brilliant-minded fellow bundled up in his coat, climbed to the roof to see if he could be of some assistance.

Sure enough, he found Santa sitting on his sled, his head in his hands weeping. The young Hardingite approached with great awe and respect if there was anything that he might do.

They pulled Prancer back to the roof and checked for injuries. Upon discovering the broken leg, Santa began weeping again. This sight touched our young hero deeply. He thought and thought until finally he was hit by a plan.

He told Santa of Harding's wonderful mascot, Bennie Bison. He talked of the time when Bennie had saved a little girl from a roaring fire, of the time when he pulled a drowning boy out of the cold and swift waters of the Red River and of all the marvelous things that the magical bull could do.

"I bet that Bennie would be glad to help ya out, Santa," said the student with pride.

And so Bennie led Santa's sleigh up to the roof. Prancer recuperated in Heber Springs and the young student was rewarded with a ride to see his folks in Florida.
Have we got a choice?

By Allen Black

We are standing smack in the middle of the crossroads of life looking as far down every path as possible “until it bends in the undergrowth” and trying to reach that elusive point — the point of decision. The great tragedy is not so much the fact that decision is often elusive, but that for so many decision is illusory. Choice is but a word.

Supposedly college students are preparing the molds to pour their lives into — goals, jobs, families, etc. But most of the time in reality the mold prepares them, pouring them out of four years of process like so many assembly line productions.

This sadly deterministic picture is so typical of our surroundings that surely most of us have considered it and been grossed out by it. Matthew Arnold’s “Dover Beach” puts it well:

“...and we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight
Where ignorant armies clash by night.”

Against this background we can see an essential unity between the recent chapel talks given by our brethren, Bob Holsten and Jim Howard. Jonathan Livingston Seagull may hold out some hope for optimism but the only real optimism that can be found is in Christ. Otherwise, “Dover Beach” is a true picture of a world which has failed time and time again to find its way without God. Without God, choice is but an illusion, chance is the reality. There is no way to find.

If it is true that the only meaningful decisions to be made are in Christ then brother Howard’s speech about Christ and culture must be acted out in our lives.

Christ must be placed above all culture and all our decisions about goals, jobs, and families receive their significance only in the light of Christian goals and Christian ethics. Those who refuse to give this real thought will make meaningless decisions regardless of how intellectual or difficult they may be.

But those who are willing to make every road a path to bear the cross will consistently make purposeful decision at the crossroads of life. These decisions will be worth something because they are part of an effort to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please him in all respects.” Col. 1:10

All things considered — Christmas is fake in life’s RAT RACE

By Phil Carroll

Brightly colored lights and soft strains of music — people will talk for a while of love and peace and other Christmas things. The old childish fascination springs up again — it’s almost Christmastime!

Somehow it’s still hard to ignore the foolish little child, the ancient little Christmas gnome inside us all. He still believes that love and peace should be every day things.

Remember when you thought it was possible for life to always be like this, evergreen and silver and full of light?

Hope and disillusion vie for the upper hand as a grim inner voice reminds the ancient Christmas child of his baseless belief that the magic will last — this time.

The Christmas children haven’t a chance. We have to keep moving, ace those finals — get all those people off our backs. So we run. Why? Ask anybody — all of us know that YOU NEVER GET ANYTHING OUT OF THIS LIFE WITHOUT PUSHING AND SURE IT’S A RAT RACE — WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

No one seems to realize that only rats win rat races and that once, a long foolish time ago we all expected something beautiful of life.

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Campus, community deck the holiday halls

Christmas lights sparkle the Harding campus as the holidays draw closer.

Two stars, an evergreen and wreaths adorn the White County courthouse shrouded in fog on the square with Christmas festivity.

Randy Burris and Jerry Flowers, '70 grads, sing at the all-school Christmas party against the backdrop of the S.A. present.

We hate to be "name droppers," but...

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Couples set December dates for weddings

Mitchell-Cooper to wed
Dec. 18 in Mississippi

Mr. and Mrs. Dorice E. Mitchell of Pascagoula, Miss., announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Ann, to Daniel Lee Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Lee Cooper of Bedford, Ind.

Miss Mitchell is a 1969 graduate of Pascagoula High School. She received an A.A. degree in liberal arts from Freed-Hardeman College in 1971. Her major is English education and she will receive a B.A. in August, 1972.

Cooper is a 1969 graduate of Springfield High School in Springfield, Vt. He is currently a senior at Harding College with a major in Bible and will receive his B.A. degree in May, 1973.

A Dec. 18 wedding is planned at the Central Church of Christ in Pascagoula, Miss. A senior, Miss Mitchell is to wed Dec. 18 in Mississippi. Mr. and Mrs. Dorice E. Mitchell of Pascagoula, Miss., announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Ann, to Daniel Lee Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Lee Cooper of Bedford, Ind.

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Harding sponsors high school debate tourney workshop

By Deb Betsa

Competitive spirit prevailed last Saturday as Pi Kappa Delta, the forensics organization, conducted its annual High School Workshop and Debate Tournament on campus.

Students from 13 schools, primarily Arkansas, competed in seven different events on Friday and Saturday. Workshops were held in which the Harding speech department demonstrated proper form to the students in the areas of original speaking, impromptu speaking, reader’s theater, oral interpretation of poetry and prose, radio speaking and debate.

Faculty and students served as judges in the competition. The high school which accumulated the highest overall score was awarded a sweepstakes trophy on Saturday afternoon.

Championship debate proved especially competitive as both Mars Hill, Ala., teams moved into the finals undefeated. Mars Hill was then pitted against another power school, Little Rock's Parkview, in a final round. Mars Hill won and in the final round the Mars Hill teams debated one another in an effort to establish a champion.

As the trophies were awarded, however, Mars Hill took first and second place debate trophies and they were told to decide among themselves which of their two teams deserved first place.

Saturday afternoon Northeast of Little Rock was given the sweepstakes trophy. Mars Hill was awarded second place and Parkview third as 54 tired high school students cleared the campus; some left with trophies and smiles, other with resolutions of a better position in next year's tournament.

Lyn Purrier, a high school student of Dumas, Ark., carefully prepares for her presentation in the annual Pi Kappa Delta forensics tournament held here last weekend.

-- Photo by Betsa

Harding's new bus, donated by Richard Gibson board member, awaits usage by the basketball team, as one of its many school trips.

Long-awaited bus arrives from Belgium

Silver Eagle now in school action

By Ann Ulrey

Harding’s long-awaited Continental Trailways Silver Eagle bus is now being used for school trips.

The new bus, which was made in Belgium and cost $60,000, seats 49 passengers without jumpseats. It is equipped with a loudspeaker and stereo system.

The Silver Eagle is six feet longer than the college's 15-year-old bus. The older bus seats forty-five people counting the jumpseats, and has traveled at least 600,000 miles.

Richard Gibson, Harding’s youngest board member, donated the bus to the college. Gibson is a graduate of Abilene Christian College and is president of the chain of Gibson's Discount Centers. Bill Dismuke, a member of the Development Council, was also instrumental in securing the bus for Harding.

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and we’ll see you
next year.

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Grads . . . from p. 5)

Receiving degrees this month are Elizabeth Ann Reel, Joe Eddy Rhodes, Larry Sanderson, Patty S. Schiro, Dennis Craig Snyder, Brenda J. Sprinkle, Richard W. Setano, Sherill P. Taggart, Brenda K. Trotter, and Willie Carl Turner.

Others include Paul W. Wallace, Willard Gene Weaver, T. Ruth West, Daphne Diane Williams, Ivan Dale Williams, James Ray Williams, Johnny Hal Wilson, Mary L. Wilson and Rebekah F. Woods.
Swim team breaks school record

By King Buchanan

Harding's waterbuffaloes broke three school records last weekend in the 9th Annual Hendrix Relays in Conway Arkansas.

Freshman Paul Knarr in the 100-yard Butterfly beat Harding's previous record of 1:08.6. Mark McInerney set a new school record of 1:05.6.

John Eastland and Danny Duchos put forth especially good performances in relation to what they have done before. Eastland turned in a 1:17.1 on his leg in the 300 Breaststroke Relay bettering his past mark by six seconds.

Duchos turned his best time also on his leg of the 300 yard Backstroke Relay.

There are 13 on the swimming team, with the veterans are John Brunner, Fred Finke, Mark McInerney, and Harry Miller.

First year men are Paul Knarr, David Rutter, John Eastland, Mark Troeter, Richard Parker, Danny Duchos, Bill Carter, Pete Nelson and Nevin Garthwaite.

Sportsverein

By King Buchanan

Celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary, Langston College has begun a trend that the college has not known for four years. That trend is a winning football season and the Langston Lions are 7-4 in season play and 2-4 in conference play. In fact, the Lions were so successful that they have been asked to play the Harding Bison tomorrow in the Cowboy Bowl in Oklahoma.

Langston College is a state-supported black school of 1,250 students. The campus is located in Langston, Okla., and is about 56 miles northeast of Oklahoma City and 90 miles west of Tulsa. Last year the Sheridan Kiwanis Club sponsored the Cowboy Bowl Game into existence. Cameron College, which is one of Langston's top rivals, played Howard Payne last year in the first Cowboy Bowl Game.

There are many fine players for the Lions, but Frinison Poindexter, the Lions quarterback, and Ananias Carson, Poindexter's top receiver, are especially outstanding.

Poindexter is a junior finishing his third year as starting quarterback for the Lions. He led all Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference passers with an average of 174.6 yards a game and connected on 189 passes out of 308 throws for 1,021 yards. In one game last year Poindexter passed for 367 yards and won NAIA Back of the Week honors for that performance. Last year he was voted on the All-Conference second team.

Winning a berth on the All-Conference first team Ananias Carson was second in the conference in pass reception yardage. Ananias Carson caught 51 passes last year for 631 yards that resulted in four touchdowns and a 12.4 yard per pass average per game.

There are other good players that pose a threat to the Bisons such as the small and quick Richard Whitaker who plays half-back and weights 190 pounds. The other half, Clarence James, is the opposite of Whitaker and he is 6'1" and weights 180 pounds. James rushed and caught for 464 yards last year.

John Goodie is the fullback - 4'11" tall, 230 pounds. His size also enables him to play linebacker. Henry Thatcher plays tight end though he is only a sophomore he started the whole year. Playing split-end Kenneth Payne caught 35 passes last year for 339 yards and five touchdowns.

Charles Harmon and Jerry Jones are the outstanding players on the Lion defense. Harmon plays defensive guard, is 6'2", weights 250 pounds, and last year made 64 unassisted tackles. Jones is a 6'-1", 215 pound linebacker and last year he made 54 unassisted tackles.

If the Bisons can stop the Lions passing attack then the Bisons will probably be able to stop the whole Lion Offense.

...Sportsverein predicts the Lions will not be able to stop Harding's offense and the score will be 28-7, Harding.

Harding's cross country team wins again only this time the win was against a stronger team, but the great determining factor, time. The runners were participating in a 24-hour relay and they were out to beat their own state record.

The team started the relay at 4:00 a.m. Friday and was to end the same time Saturday. The relay is begun with 18 runners and there are no substitutions. So if someone is injured or too fatigued that simply means one less runner. At 9 Saturday morning there were only six runners left who were getting very weary. Everyone was seriously thinking of stopping the race.

They continued however and at 4:46 a.m. after 24 hours they found six exhausted runners and a new state record. The Bisons beat their own record by almost two miles. The previous record was 259 miles and 1,460 yards and the new record is 261 miles and 1,370 yards.

Rock Meservey, Bob Mead, Pat McClefferty, Paul Jacoby, Richard Bellis and Perry Taylor were the six that finished and eventually ran either 33 or 34 miles. Others that ran were Larry Brown, John McGee, John Ratliff, and Bob Shenfield.

There's a lot of give and take in Cricketeer flannel knit slacks.

Cricketeer flannel doubleknit slacks of 100% Dacon® polyester move easily when you do without yet losing their pressed look. The rich solid colorings look great when they're styled with wide belt loops and flared bottoms. For total-freedom, pick a pair to coordinate with a Cricketeer doubleknit blazer.

There's a lot of give and take in Cricketeer flannel knit slacks.
Bisons break losing streak in 88-74 victory

By Doug Shields

The Bison basketball team broke a three-game losing streak by rolling over Baptist Christian College 88-74 here Monday night.

The 88 points represented the Bisons' best offensive effort this season. Tim Vick had 15 assists to break the school record of 12 in one game, which he set last year. Vick also led the scoring with 26 points. Others in double figures include Fred Dixon with 18, freshman Randy Reynolds with 14 and Larry Aggas with 12.

Joe Matthias led rebounding with 15 grabs while Dixon pulled down 12.

Harding was 3-3 overall and 0-1 in the AIC going into last night's game. At present Southern State and Henderson look like top contenders for the league crown, with Hendrix rated as a darkhorse. However, three months of tough play still remain, and the competition could turn the race into a free-for-all.

Fred Dixon (14) shoots two of his 18 points as the Harding roundballers beat Baptist Christian College in a 88-74 win.

Harding's Tim Vick (12) lays up two points in last Monday's win against Baptist Christian College.

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