Kissingler to highlight spring lecture series

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will highlight the spring American Studies Lecture Series April 28 at Harding. Other speakers will include Gifford Pinchot III, author and management consultant, Gene Stallings, head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals football team and Howard Phillips, founder of the Conservative Caucus.

Pinchot will present the one-day Management Seminar on Feb. 17. Stallings will speak Feb. 26. Phillips will follow on March 19 and Kissinger will

HENRY KISSINGER

close the series. "We have an excellent line-up of speakers," said Dr. David B. Burks, director of the American Studies program. "We believe their presentations will be especially timely and informative to our students, the Searcy community and the central Arkansas area."

Kissingler, the 56th Secretary of State, was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973. In 1977 he was presented the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and in 1986, the Medal of Liberty. He served as a member of the presidential Cabinet from Sept. 1973 to Jan. 1977. He also served as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Currently Kissinger is Chairman of Kissinger Associates, Inc., an international consulting firm. Since leaving the Department of State, he has occupied the positions of University Professor of Diplomacy at the School of Foreign Service and Counselor to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, both at Georgetown University.

He was appointed in 1968 by President Ronald Reagan to chair the National Bipartisan Commission of Central America. He is also a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a Counselor to the Chase Manhattan Bank and a member of its International Advisory Committee, and an honorary Governor of the Foreign Policy Association.

The Management Seminar with Pinchot will be Feb. 17. Pinchot is founder and chairman of Pinchot and Company and is a well-known lecturer and management consultant. He is on the faculty of the School for Entrepreneurs in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Pinchot graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in economics and attended Johns Hopkins University where he studied mathematical sociology and behavioral physiology. His book, IN-TRAPRENEURING Why You Don't Have To Leave The Corporation To Become An Entrepreneur assists people to successfully innovate within large corporations.

Stallings will speak on the Harding campus on Feb. 26. He served 12 years as a player or coach under Paul "Bear" Bryant at Texas A&M and Alabama, and another 14 seasons as a Dallas Cowboy assistant under Tom Landry.

GENE STALLINGS

Stallings was elected to the Texas A&M Hall of Fame in 1982, received the National Boys Club Alumni of the Year Award and the 1985 Dallas Father of the Year award. He is the ninth head coach since the Cardinals moved to St. Louis in 1960.

Phillips will speak March 19. He launched The Conservative Caucus in Nov. 1974, with the stated goal of rallying conservative sentiment at the grassroots level.

Repair completed following co-generation plant accident

Repairs have been completed at the co-generation power plant facility following the Dec. 6 fire which left the Harding campus in the dark for over an hour, Dr. Clifton L. Ganus, university president, said.

Plant spokesmen say they have removed the loft and insulation from above the generators which will make the plant more fireproof.

Much of the wood used in construction of the plant is being replaced by more fire-retardant materials, Ganus said.

"We are making some changes in the plant, many of which are not directly related to the fire," Ganus said. "We have learned a lot from the fire and are trying to alleviate any foreseeable problems in the future."

The plant is currently being made ready for automation and much of the operational work will be fully computerized.

Costs have exceeded the original $1,200 repair cost estimate by several thousand dollars, Ganus said. Exact figures are not available. Repair costs included cleanup, restoration and improvements.

The plant has been operating at full capacity.
Bison success fostered by bleacher creatures

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the 19th century American author, once commented, “Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm.” This maxim has been applied to many endeavors, but it is especially relevant to the realm of athletic competition.

A sports team, no matter how talented, will find it difficult to be successful without enthusiasm on the part of its players and fans. Conversely, it has been said more than once that an enthusiastic crowd is worth points on the scoreboard for the home team.

For proof of this supposition, one need look no further than the 1986-87 Bison basketball team.

On its way to a 5-1 home record (previous to last night’s action), this group of over-achievers, picked before the season to finish near the cellar of the Arkansas Inter-collegiate Conference, has ambushed all but one of the opponents that have entered the Harding Athletic Complex. In fact, the only loss that the Bisons have suffered at home was on a three-point game-winner at the final buzzer of an 81-80 game.

The team was supposed to be too young, too inexperienced and too weak under the basket to meet with any respectable degree of success. So what has transformed this squad from a rag-tag youngster into a dominant home force?

“A big part of our success has been the big, loud crowds. ‘We’ve got the best home crowd in the conference,’ Shannon Hughes, Bison guard, remarked. ‘The enthusiasm of our crowd makes it hard for other teams to come in here and win.’”

Hughes, perhaps more than any of his teammates, should realize the great impact fan support can have on a team’s winning percentage. Hughes’ freshman season, the Bisons rode a wave of school spirit into the NAIA District 17 Tournament, where they were runnersup to Arkansas College.

Three years later, Hughes is the only holdover Bison from that 1983-84 success story. But he remembers well the feeling of school spirit that was fostered by a winning basketball program, and vice versa.

Fortunately for Hughes, a senior in his last year of competition, postseason success may soon by more than just a fond freshman memory. And, as Hughes readily admits, a large part of that success is determined in the bleachers.

Deathbed experience offers new life to cancer-ridden non-Christian

In the first grade at Medill Elementary School, Jill Smith was about the sharpest gal walking. She and I used to play with the building blocks and swing together at recess. We sat near each other in class and at reading lab. We enjoyed each other’s company. I was so embarrassed the day the teacher told me to stop picking my nose in class and Jill looked at me giggling. During my first grade year we developed quite a healthy friendship. Then in second grade my family moved into another school system.

During the next 15 years I saw Jill from time to time. Maybe once or twice a year I would see her and speak to her in passing. She always seemed to get prettier every time I saw her.

Her grandmother went to the same church I did and every once in a while she would come to church with her grandma. I used to secretly wish she would start coming all the time and I could get to know her better.

When she was 18 I heard news of her marriage. I don’t think her grandmother was too pleased with her choice but I hoped that someday she and her husband would become Christians and go to our church.

A year later Jill’s grandmother came to church with some distressing news. Jill had gotten sick. She went to the doctors and they found cancer. They started chemotherapy but things looked very bad. Her husband of one year chose not to handle the situation and left her.

The next year things continued to look bad. Her health became progressively worse and her body was responding very little to any therapy. She did remarried. I don’t know what happened to her second husband but I know he wasn’t around much especially when her health became terminal.

In the third year of her illness every one faced the fact that Jill was going to die. It was during this year that my father spent a great deal of time in the hospital talking to her and trying to lend some comfort to her family.

A year ago this spring dad talked to her seriously about her illness. She asked him to pray with her and to help her face any destiny the Lord would choose for her.

Last summer the Lord took her. Her body was at peace. It seems strange to me that so many people have to be lying flat on their backs in their death bed before they see that there is more to life than just trying to have a good time.

Let’s be people who encourage others to give themselves to the Lord before death visits and share with others the love and joy He’s so graciously given us.
'87 resolutions: put away Ouija board, air out asbestos smoke

The Harding Primer
by Bill Rankin

It's hard to believe that Christmas break is already over. Yes, that two-week gala of festivities and bliss (so generously given to us by an administration who sees each national holiday only as an opportunity to close the Post Office and refuse to cash checks, and who would quite possibly make us go to school on Sundays if it weren't for certain religious convictions (and hey, remember those good old days when we used to go to school on Saturdays?)) is over. According to the Ouija board ... (I've completely forgotten what it was I was saying. Ah yes,) has been transformed into fond and wistful memories, all of which seem to have magically stored themselves in waistlines as opposed to minds.

And now, here we are, two weeks into the new year, and already we're counting the remaining shopping days. I can't even figure out how to write the date yet; do retailers really expect me to be able to decide on trendy gifts for my family and friends???

Well, I suppose I've rambled enough. It's time to get down to the real brass tacks of this situation. The real meat and potatoes. The determined objective. The number one priority. The central issue. This is the new year, and even though it's been tainted somewhat with time, there's still enough of it left to make a couple of very important and much-needed resolutions. So here it is. The BIG list. I hope you will all:

• Resolve never to go near the co-generation plant without rubber-soled shoes and an asbestos smock.
• Resolve never to ask what it was or when it was originally served at any cafeteria-style restaurant, even if held at gunpoint.
• Resolve never to fall asleep if Jimmy Allen is within a 10-mile radius.

• Resolve never to pick up the College Church bulletin that you dropped on the mailroom floor. Others will think you are not cool and might even suspect that you are reading them ... late at night ... in your closet ... with the door closed.
• Resolve never to play with the Ouija board on a first date. This and tea-leaf readings should be saved for much more advanced relationships.
• Resolve never to play with the Ouija board in front of your parents. Your mother will blame pop-music (the Captain and Tennille, for example) and your father will ask just exactly what they're teaching you at that school he's paying so much money to.
• Resolve never to end a sentence with a preposition — even if you can't think of anything else to end it with (see preceding resolution).
• Resolve never to wonder who invented gummi-bears or whether he has an estate somewhere in the Bavarian Alps.
• Resolve never to have Imelda Marcos as a role model.
• Resolve never to tease a person who is bigger than you about weight, even if you are datering her.
• Resolve never to let anyone print anything even remotely resembling the preceding resolution if (a) your name is on it, and (b) you value your health.
• Resolve never to get furious over anything as insignificant as chicken ... 16 times a week.
• Resolve never to sleep more than three hours a night — unless you can't possibly afford to.
• Resolve to rest completely secure in the knowledge that you've already taken your Petit Jean portrait. And if you haven't, resolve never to let Dr. Joe within 15 feet of you.
• Resolve never to put off anything until the very end of the semester. Instead, see if you can postpone it even farther, perhaps indefinitely, or, if not, ask yourself what difference it will make to you in 25 years ... when you're working as a night janitor at a convenience store.
• Resolve never to make any of these stupid resolutions again. You break them in 30 minutes anyway, and it's just a waste of your precious time. Instead go bowling. The benefits will last a lifetime.

Return of Extremes: It's a real world out there

EDITOR'S NOTE: Todd Thompson, a 1986 Harding graduate in mass communication, is presently employed at Walker and Associates, a Memphis advertising firm. Thompson, who last year authored "Given to Extremes," the Bispe humor column, has connected to provide Harding students with a humorous insight into what life is like in "the real world." The following is the first segment of a two-part article.

He! And you thought you had seen the last of me back in May. You thought I had wandered across the stage, received my diploma, hugged my mom and fallen into some dark, bottomless pit where all non-business majors go, there to shop at K-Mart, eat Cheese Doodles, wear plastic clothing and drive a Chevette.

Well, I have been to the mountaintop and seen where dreams and reality come together on the horizon of life. I have found what Dorothy only wished for over the rainbow. I am riding on the freeway of life in my pink Cadillac.

I got a job.

Before I go any further with this, let me say that I am not being boastful, vain or obnoxious about this. It is not the whole job thing, I only want to tell you that there really is life after Harding, that you may have it more abundantly. So, kick that Ouija board, stuff a paper under the lid of that student center table to avoid having coffee in your lap, and let's talk.

But first of all, let me tell you what I do. I'm a public relations writer for an advertising agency in Memphis. Now let me tell you what I do. I write news releases about lawn mowers and forklifts. It's almost as exciting as a C-section, but it's a start. I've only been here a month, so I'll have to wait a while before I take over the G.M. account.

So, that's what I do. Now, let's talk about life after graduation.

I have made one astounding discovery which I need to share with you. Many people envy the accounting majors because, if their grade points are positive integers, they generally have a job waiting for them after graduation. I was one of those enviable trolls, but now the truth is known. There is such a large need for accountants because, after a year of work, they lose all their hair and ability to speak and are sent to live in condos in Dallas, where they all go to Benegino's and eat fries. The encroachment of the central government in the United States does not begin to compare with the violence faced in Great Britain and Spain. Although the form of government in the United States may not seem so good, it is among the best to be found anywhere. On Sept. 17, 1987, it will be 200 years old.

The Constitution prompts need for domestic unity

Political Perspective
by Mike Pridmore

The U.S. Constitution will soon be 200 years old. That upcoming bicentennial anniversary marks a very important event in the history of the United States. While the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is generally looked upon as the beginning of what is now known as the United States of America, the original colonies were not truly united until they agreed to be subject to the strong central government proposed by the Constitution.

During the period that followed the successful revolt from English domination and preceded the ratification of the Constitution, the colonies all asserted their right to individual independence and were very weakly united under the Articles of Confederation. During that period, inflation was very high because the colonies were constantly squabbling among themselves and taking advantage of each other by imposing various taxes on imports from other colonies and affixing other similar barriers to colonial unity.

This short and no doubt familiar review of the situation surrounding the writing of the Constitution is not meant to serve as a lesson in U.S. history but rather is intended to give an example of the importance of the unity which resulted from the Constitution. The Preamble of the Constitution provides a list of what the framers saw as important results of the government brought about through the ratification of the Constitution. The forming of a better system of unity is first on that list.

The unity following the Constitution was severely threatened by the conflict between the North and the South. Although slavery has probably been thought by most people to have been the cause of the Civil War, states' rights was by far the most prominent issue of the day. That is why the United States formed themselves into a confederacy rather than a federal system such as that proposed by the Constitution. If the confederacy formed by the southern states had survived, it would have faced many of the same problems faced by the colonies in the pre-constitutional era.

In recent years, many in the United States have felt that the central government has become far too involved in affairs which should be handled at the state and local levels. "States' rights" has been the rallying cry of those who seek to bring about change. The unity which ratification of the Constitution brought about is very important to the strength of the United States. If states' rights are to be increased, those increases must not be so arbitrarily made as to damage the unity that the bloodiest "war" in U.S. history was fought to preserve.

While very few would seek the degree of regional independence sought by Northern Ireland and the Basque country, these two serve as grim reminders of the disunity brought about by an excess of states' rights. The encroachment of the central government in the United States does not begin to compare with the violence faced in Great Britain and Spain. Although the form of government in the United States may not seem so good, it is among the best to be found anywhere. On Sept. 17, 1987, it will be 200 years old.

While the Constitution promises the need for domestic unity, it is left to the States and the people to decide how that unity will be achieved. It is up to each state and each person to decide how much separation or cooperation is needed in order to maintain this unity.
Mass chorus concludes festival

by Susan Vaughn  
Staff writer

The 31st annual Christian College Choral Festival concluded Saturday evening with an impressive finale in the George S. Benson Auditorium. With colorful robes, gowns and suits, the 570 singers created a memorable experience for the audience of approximately 2,000 people.


Other variations which showed individual style were by groups from Faulkner University, Lubbock Christian College and Southwestern Christian College. The Faulkner chorus sang "God Bless America" while signing the words in sign language and the Lubbock female singers were escorted formally onto the stage, with each singer carrying a single red rose. Southwestern's singers recessed the audience when, under the direction of Veronica E. Williams, they sang the Carnel Pipkin's arrangement of "The Greatest Commandment."

The pride and appreciation of the audience for Harding's Chorale and a Cappella Chorus were apparent when the performed. The Chorale sang "Las Agachadas," by Aaron Copeland and "Gloria," by Brent Pierce, with Dr. Clifton L. Ganus III conducting.

The A Cappella Chorus, directed by Dr. Kenneth Davis, Jr., performed "The Lord is King," by George Lynn and "Holy Radiant Light," by Alexander Gretchaninoff.

Other groups participating in the festival were from Abilene Christian University, Crowley's Ridge College, David Lipscomb College, Freed-Hardeman College, Michigan Christian College, Northwestern Christian Junior College, Ohio Valley College and York College.

Feeley to address classroom child abuse

The Harding chapter of the Student Arkansas Education Association (SAEA) will hold its next meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in the American Studies Auditorium, according to faculty sponsor Jeanine Peck.

Carla Feeley, State Education Department official and assistant executive director of the SAEA, will address the topic of dealing with child abuse in the classroom. Anyone interested in this subject is invited to attend.

Immediately following Feeley's lecture, there will be a meeting for SAEA members only.

American Studies . . .

(continued from page 1)


He entered Harvard College at the age of 17 and was twice elected president of Young Americans for Freedom, helped organize Youth for Nixon, chaired the Committee for an Effective Peace Corps, and served three terms as chairman of the Massachusetts College Republican Federation.

Phillips led a campaign in opposition to ratification of the treaties to surrender the U.S. Canal Zone and Zone at the isthmus of Panama, worked to block ratification of the Carter/Brezhnev SALT II treaty, and undertook a campaign to promote the concept of a global ballistic missile defense.

He has authored seven books and published numerous articles on United States foreign policy, international affairs and diplomatic history. He served as a member of the faculty of Harvard University for 14 years where he also received the bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

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socio-economic factors and the level of achievement in school," he explained. "Those who come from a low-socio-economic status are more likely to fail. Coker also noted the success economic status is higher than those who don't. The proportion of blacks of low socio-economic status is higher than whites." Educators with graduate degrees from Harding and Arkansas Tech University had the lowest failure rates, with less than one percent failing. Coker also noted the success of Harding students on the National Teacher Exam.

“Any teacher seeking initial certification must take the NTE in specialty area and professional knowledge," he said. "Our graduates also perform among the best in the state, with less than one percent failure rate.”

Originally, results of the basic skills test were only released to individuals. But Rep. Lloyd George of Danville insisted on listing results of the test according to the institutions from which the teachers graduated.

Alumni wins Search final

National recognition and a $100,000 check were awarded to David Slater, Harding alumnus and 1984 Spring Sing host, when he successfully competed on Ed McMahon’s TV show “Star Search.” After a rendition of "To the Edge of the World," Slater was selected Best Male Vocalist. His performance, taped on Dec. 19 in Los Angeles, will air the weekend of May 17. How does Slater feel about all this attention? "It's the most exciting I've ever been as far as my career is concerned," he said. Slater intends to divide his check among charities, personal investments and shopping.

Upcoming engagements include two more appearances on "Star Search." On Jan. 8 Slater performed with a past winner, the country/rock group Sawyer Brown. In Las Vegas, he will appear on a special segment of the show.

Slater has been negotiating with three major record companies to decide whose contract he will accept. A 1987 tour with associate and friend Lee Greenwood is also being considered.
Green elected to hall of fame for meritorious service

Stan Green, Harding’s director of public relations and sports information director, has been elected to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service category, according to Bonnie L. Morrow, national staff liaison for the NAIA office in Kansas City, Mo. Green will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the NAIA Hillyard Hall of Fame luncheon at the Vista International Hotel in Kansas City on March 17 at noon. The induction ceremony is part of the 98th annual NAIA meeting and men’s and women’s championship basketball tournament.

“This tribute to Stan is in recognition of his support for athletics at Harding, to the NAIA District 17 in Arkansas, and to the NAIA in general, and for exemplifying the highest ideals of intercollegiate athletics and fine moral character,” said Ms. Morrow. “It is our highest honor.”

Green, 49, received a bachelor of science degree in 1969 from the University of Houston and has earned additional graduate hours at Harding, where in addition to his administrative duties he also teaches graphic design classes in the art department. A native of Waldo, Green helped pioneer in the state, along with former sports information director at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Bob Dane, the professional sports information concept.

Green has served as NAIA District 17 Information Director for the past 21 years, as well as serving as secretary to the NAIA District 17 Executive Committee for the same duration. He is a charter member of the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference Sports Information Directors Association and has served in every office of the association, including two terms as president.

In 1979, Green was presented the Clarence “Ike” Pearson Award by the NAIA-SIDA as the Sports Information Director of the Year. Green has served in every office of the national sports information association.

He has won more than 40 NAIA All-American awards for his publications, and has received 12 additional awards for publications from the College Sports Information Directors Association, an alliance of sports publicists from mainly National Collegiate Athletics Association institutions.

Green has served as Media Coordinator at six NAIA Championship Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Arkansas and Media Coordinator for seven NAIA Division I football playoff games, including one national championship final contest. He has served as either a speaker and/or a panel member on seven NAIA-SIDA national convention programs and as chairman and member of numerous committees as an active member of NAIA-SIDA.

“It’s always nice to know that what you’re doing is recognized and appreciated,” Green said. “And to be recognized with an award of this magnitude makes it that much nicer.”

The NAIA Hall of Fame was formed in 1962 to honor players and coaches and also to recognize individuals for general contributions to the organization. Presently, the NAIA Hall of Fame is divided into 14 categories, a division for meritorious service and 13 divisions for specific sports. Each sports division is further divided into three categories: athletes, coaches and meritorious service to the sport.

Six hundred and sixty-five people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1962. There are a total of 313 athletes, 200 coaches and 152 people elected for meritorious service.

The NAIA Hall of Fame Committee determines specific criteria for nomination and elects nominees into the Hall.
Victory decided for ‘Undecided’ in College Bowl championship

"Still Undecided" defeated "The Bison" in a close match during the final game of the college bowl competition during chapel on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The four members of "Still Undecided" are Rob Burns, Scott Harris, Carol Coffey and Jeff Jewell. Burns was an alternate for last year's team, and Harris was the captain of last year's team.

All-stars who will also help out in the varsity team are Shawn Goodpasture, Scott Hoover, John Madden and Mike Pridmore.

The varsity team practiced about four hours before school started and will continue practice once a week until the Feb. 30-22 tournament to be held at North Texas State University in Denton.

"We feel the team has a good chance to do as well as the other teams have during the last six years," Dr. Dennis Otter, the college bowl sponsor, said. "We have one player, Scott Harris, who played last year and we feel he will provide good leadership. Carol Coffey and he have been outstanding players in our practice so far. Carol played two years in Harding's high school bowl, and we look forward to having her for the next several years."

Lady Bisons trapped on wild ride

Ten games into their season, the Lady Bison basketballers must feel as if they are aboard a runaway rollercoaster. And, according to Coach Phil Watkins, it's a ride he would like to get his team off.

"We've had some very good games so far, but we've also had some very bad ones; we never seem to play just an average game," Watkins said Tuesday. "We either play tremendously or we play tremendously bad."

One of the downhill slopes on the Lady Bisons' wild ride came Monday night when they visited the University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff. With a weak offensive showing, Harding came up short on the end of a 67-56 score.

"We had a very poor night offensively. Our team just didn't shoot the ball enough and we never did get it inside effectively," Watkins said.

Demonstrative of the team's inability to move the ball into the point was the fact that they shot no first-half free throws. "You have to get it inside to get fouled and go to the line," Watkins said. "So that's a pretty good indicator of how we failed to move the ball."

But Watkins feels that Monday's game is not a reliable indication of how his team has improved.

"This year's team is much more balanced than those of past years, and we're much stronger at most positions, especially guard," Watkins commented.

Impressive play has come from the forward position, where the Lady Bisons boast a pair of talented juniors, Teri Loven and Stephanie Watkins. Loven leads the team in scoring with 15.4 points per game and in rebounds with 74. Smith is second in both categories, scoring 13.5 points per contest and pulling down 69 rebounds.

Most impressive among the team's seven guards thus far has been junior Shawn Bradford, a 5-2 ballhandler who has scored an average of 11.2 points per game. Her counterpart, junior Rhonda Bradford, has also proven valuable to the team, averaging 10.8 points per game.

Going into last night's home game against Henderson State University, the team had accumulated a 9-1 overall record, along with a 1-1 conference mark. But the squad's performance has been far from dismal.

A high point of the season came Jan. 8 as the ladies fell just short to Magnolia to face Southern Arkansas University. Although the team fell 83-78, due mainly to one late SDSU turnover, Watkins termed his team's performance "tremendous" against the team he feels is the strongest in the Arkansas Basketball Conference.

"We played a lot tougher at home than we have on the road so far," Watkins said. "A lot of how we come out in the final score of a game depends on how we start; if we come out strong, then we know we'll be okay."

Tomorrow night, the Lady Bisons travel to Magnolia to face Southern Arkansas University in an AIC contest.

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Heading into last night's homestand against Henderson State University the Bison basketball team was in a position to control its own destiny.

Jan. 8, the Bisons took an 83-79 home victory over Arkansas Tech University, which they followed with Monday night's 85-73 road win at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. The consecutive victories perched the team in a three-way tie for second place in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference with a league record of 4-2.

As luck would have it, the other two teams involved in the second-place deadlock, prior to last night's action, were Henderson State and Southern Arkansas University.

Last night, the Bisons brought Henderson onto their home court, where they have put together an impressive 5-1 home record. The team's only home loss was by a single point last month, when a Union University player hit a three-point shot at the buzzer.

A large reason for the Bisons' home dominance, according to senior guard Shannon Hughes, has been the zealous Harding crowd.

"We undoubtedly have the best home crowd in the conference here at Harding; it makes it hard for other teams to come in here and win," Hughes said.

Tomorrow night's task could prove to be considerably more difficult, as the Bisons travel to Southern Arkansas' home ground. Over the past 10 years, Harding teams that visited Magnolia have accumulated only a 1-9 record against the Muleriders.

"I don't really know why it's so hard for our team to win at SAU, but it always seems to be that way," Nicky Boyd, Bison assistant coach, said. "Even when our teams have had more talent, we've found it hard to win down there. We'll just have to break whatever jinx there is."

Although Southern Arkansas boasts one of its best teams in years, the Bisons' young team is coming on strong in league play. A key to the squad's success has been the play of freshman Corey Camper, a two-time all-state performer from Brinkley. The 6-4 forward has played with the savvy of an AIC veteran and leads the Bisons in scoring with an average of 13.7 points per game and in total rebounds with 90.

Hughes, in addition to the leadership that he lends to the relatively inexperienced team, has poured in an average of 10.7 points per game and leads the team in total assists with 45.

The suspensions of University of Arkansas players William Mills and Kenny Hutchinson, after they tested positive for chemical use, was felt throughout the state. But the real slap in the face came when Keith Richardson and Danny Womack, two beloved Bisons, were set up and arrested for dope vending.

Like it or not, Harding fell into the same shadow with Maryland and Arkansas. All three schools were forced to endure team revolts, for the sake of competitiveness, and for the sake of morals. Bias' death uncovered academic deficiencies among the Maryland squad and Coach Lefty Driesell eventually was forced to retire. Mills and Hutchinson were both admitted to a drug rehabilitation hospital while other Razorbacks made Fayetteville a memory by transferring elsewhere. And the Bisons also said farewell to some key players — other than Richardson and Womack — and rolled the dice on seven new faces.

But through all the tragic similarities that piled up, this season has uncovered one distinct difference.

While Arkansas continues to struggle and Maryland just continues to breath — barely — Jess Bucy's Bisons are nearing the end of the tunnel and should hit daylight soon.

A promising future is evident, but even this season will be a Bison-quest for comeback-of-the-year.

Yes, spitting in adversity's face is number one on the minds of these round-ballers. And you can bet, the only highs they will experience will come from winning basketball.

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