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The Bison

Friday, November 6, 1987
Harding University
Searcy, Ark. 72143
Volume 63, Number 8

Former student describes struggle with bulimia

by Janna Wharton
Bison staff writer

Former Harding student Cynthia Rowland McClure spoke Monday night on the topic "Especially for Women," in which the main emphasis of her speech was the eating disorder of bulimia.

McClure, visiting the campus for Wellness Week, spoke about other problems as well: suicide, emotional scars, sexual immorality, cancer, low self-esteem and drug addiction. McClure wrote a book, *The Monster Within*, which tells the story of her 12-year struggle with bulimia.

McClure attended Harding during the early 70's and said she "blew it" while she was here. McClure fell in love her freshman year after being here three and a half weeks. She married this man, and was divorced six months later, when she was only 19 years old. "It was absolutely devastating for me to say I was divorced," said McClure. "My greatest sin was lack of good judgement."

McClure went back to school and became a news reporter. This is when her problem with bulimia began. She was in television for

seven years, working in Dallas, Fort Smith and Little Rock.

When McClure was 28 years old she "wanted to curl up and die." She had taken 30 laxatives on an empty stomach and when she woke up she was paralyzed on her right side. She crawled on her left side to the phone and called her friend, who came and took her to the hospital. The friend explained to the doctor that McClure was a bulimic: "she eats, takes laxatives and throws up; that's what she does." The doctor said it was just nerves and sent her home.

A few days later the only thing she could think of was getting a gun and killing herself. She thought if the doctors could not help her then no one could. She called her neighbors to borrow a gun, but no one was home. "I want God's help . . . NOW . . ." she pleaded with God.

Her friend called her and told her about a hospital in Dallas that specialized in working with bulimics. McClure said it was a hard decision, but she decided to go to Dallas. She drove to Dallas alone and before she could make herself get out of the car and go into the hospital she decided to take more

laxatives, telling herself it would be the last time, for she knew she would get fat while she was in the hospital. She was afraid.

Before she went to the hospital, a typical day for McClure began with a two-to three-mile run in the morning. She would not eat until 2 in the afternoon and then she would buy 10 or 12 candy bars, eat them all then throw them back up. On top of all this binging she was taking laxatives and diuretics, up to 100 a day. At 5 p.m., when she got off work, she would stop at a convenience store and buy \$10-\$20 of food and eat it all. After this she would either stop at three different restaurants on the way home, or three different grocery stores, buying \$10-\$20 of groceries or food at each place. McClure said it was nothing for her to eat six Snickers bars in five minutes.

"I was locked in a psychiatric ward for three months where I went through the most horrid drug withdrawal," said McClure. She had shakes, sweats, and tunnel vision; she said it hurt to take a shower; she said if the wind blew on her skin, it hurt. She was an over-the-counter drug junkie. She didn't

have regular bowel movements for the first month she was there. "To a bulimic that is tragic," said McClure.

McClure said her doctor, Mike Moore, was strict with her. "Moore was tough on me because he had to be," said McClure. McClure said she can remember Moore asking her, "When did you become damaged freight, Cynthia?" It was this kind of therapy that led McClure to memories of her past when she was hurt by her parents.

McClure was severely burned when she was four years old. She and her brother were playing and jumping on a bed when she fell into the boiling water in a vaporizer beside the bed. From her waist down, she carries the scars from that accident. What she could not understand was that her mom and dad did not even come to visit her in the hospital when she was a little girl. She asked herself, "Where are you Mom and Dad?"

She found out when she was 28 years old that her parents were not allowed to come into her room because of hospital rules. At that time, hospitals feared that visitors could bring infections to the patients. Her mother and father were in the waiting room the whole time. All those years she hurt because she thought that her parents did not care.

While she was still in the hospital, she realized that there was a God. "The Bible says, seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you," said McClure. She decided she wanted to write a book so she could "walk by faith" and help others. "I did it to save a life," said McClure.

McClure had her left breast removed because of cancer a year and a half ago. She knows what it is like to hurt and struggle. "Run to Jesus — he has the answers," advises McClure. "Never give up . . . no matter how bad or hard life is."

Stewart, Yates place at meet

Two members of the forensics team placed at a tournament at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa on Oct. 22-24.

Scott Stewart placed third in both informative and persuasive speaking. Freshman Steve Yates reached the finals in prose interpretation, and placed fifth.

According to Dr. Patrick Garner, professor of speech and team coach, the team placed sixth in sweepstakes among a field of 17 colleges and universities.

"We've gotten off to a slow start, but I'm hoping that we can improve," said Stewart. "By working together, we can improve one another, and be good enough to win, but it's not going to be easy. It will take a lot of work."

The next tournament will begin Nov. 19 at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.



Cynthia Rowland McClure, former Harding student, spoke to students on Monday night about her 12-year battle with bulimia.

(Photo by Kern Bruner)

OPINION

Both sides of issues should be considered

Education should be a broad experience. In attaining one's education, one should be exposed to and consider different views in forming opinions about issues.

However, this is often not the case. Students can attend lectures and classes and continually have certain views reinforced. Eventually, they can adopt these views as their own.

There is nothing wrong with this if these are what one truly believes. However, many people have no real basis for many stated "beliefs," whether they be religious, political or academic.

At Harding, all students are required to study the Bible. The purpose of this is not just to teach facts about the Bible. The Bible must be studied to enable one to defend the gospel. One may attend church services and Bible classes for many years, and continually be told that certain things are right and others are wrong. However, unless one learns the basis for these beliefs, one will be unable to defend them when confronted with other ideas.

It is also easy to fall into the mainstream of beliefs, especially in the political arena. One may listen to lectures or read literature that only presents one school of thought, but both sides should be considered in making a decision. If only one side is continually reinforced, it may be difficult to defend a political candidate or a particular issue, since one's views have not been challenged.

Education encompasses more than attending classes and memorizing facts to write down on an exam or in a paper. It involves examining both sides of an issue in order to form an opinion and be prepared to defend it.

At Harding, students have a wide range of educational opportunities, such as classes, academic organizations and American Studies presentations. Ideas presented in these settings should be studied, rather than simply taking them at face value.

In I Peter 3:15, it is written, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." This was written concerning religious beliefs, but it can also be applied to many facets of life.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters need to be signed, although names may be withheld on request. The deadline for publishing that week's paper is Monday at noon.



The Bison

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the **Bison**, Station A, Box 1192, Searcy, AR 72143.



Pizza war story upsets manager, employee

Dear Editor,

I am writing concerning the article in the October 30 issue of **The Bison** about Pizza Wars.

Over five months ago I was called by a person who claimed to be a student of Harding Academy. I was asked to answer a few questions for a class assignment about the pizza wars. I was very hesitant to answer questions until he told me, at least three times, that this information would never be published. I didn't want to answer the questions at first because I didn't know who he was. But, again, he assured me that it was not for publication.

This lie in itself would be upsetting enough, but to top it off I was misquoted and misrepresented. Instead of directly quoting me, the author quoted only part of what I said, and apparently added a few lines of his own.

After pushing for and receiving no information on sales and dollar figures, he asked how we stood in the pizza wars. I told him that we were not involved in any war, but as for those who were involved I feel as I do in any war, "Someone has to win and someone has to lose." But, the missing element was the fact we were not participating in the war, therefore, we could not lose. Besides, this is a **delivery war**, and we are a full service dine-in, take-out and delivery restaurant based on quality, service and cleanliness.

Bill Everett, author of the article, apparently needs to learn to keep his facts straight and his information up to date, and never use quotation marks around information that is not directly quoted.

Judy Higginbotham
 Manager, Pizza Inn
 2600 East Race, Searcy

Dear Editor,

I am an employee of Pizza Inn in Searcy, and have worked there for almost six months. I have discussed the so-called "pizza wars" with manager Judy Higginbotham before, and have found her views on the subject to be very different from those stated in the article written by Bill Everett in the October 30th issue of **The Bison**. In the article, it sounds as if Pizza Inn is participating in and even losing the "war." Actually, Mrs. Higginbotham refuses to participate in the "war," as well as the recent barrage of advertising. By no means, however, is Pizza Inn "pulling back" as Everett suggests. The quotes credited to Mrs. Higginbotham in the article are totally out of character for her, and must have been taken out of context, if indeed she said these things at all.

Brian C. Smith

(See LETTERS, page 3)

Ward off dreaded post-Halloween horrors!

Some call it "post-Halloween depression." I call it fun.

Five cards, 12 cookies and 16 Pixie Stix. That's what I got for Halloween. This, of course, doesn't even count the various edibles I received from the Brach family. A pretty good killing overall. I mean, it's better than last year when I received one half-eaten caramel-apple complete with sharp metallic objects and a "Ziggy says, 'Happy Halloween!'" card, which brings up a new point: is it just me or is that poor thing deformed?

Some say the most severe cases of depression occur during and after the Christmas season. Don't believe it. The post-Halloween season is, by far, the most depressing time of life for most Americans. No more free candy, and you have to deal with that humongous outbreak of "Snicker's Zits."

Therefore, I've come up with "Doug's Ways to Combat Post-Halloween Depression." For the sake of your mental health, read this now...don't wait for the book to come out.

Tip #1: Play the "Weight Game."

Much amusement and joviality may be attained with this game. Get

Inside Out by Doug Buce

together with a few of your friends and go to one of the fine department/tire/health care/Halloween candy stores in our fair city. Walk to the area marked "Halloween candy REDUCED FOR QUICK CLEARANCE." This area is usually located smack dab in the center of the aisle between the plastic flowers and the Trax sneakers.

Hide.

The best place to conceal yourself is behind the section called "POLYESTER PANTIES FOR LARGE WOMEN." People are usually embarrassed to even glance over there. And now all you do is guess the weight of each person loading up on the post-season goodies.

You'll catch yourself sniggling, heehawing, pointing! You cover your mouth in amazement as you guess! 276! 298! 412 pounds and more! What frivolous glee!

Time for a slurpee.

Tip #2: Fun with Pixie Stix.

Take all the Pixie Stix you received

for Halloween. The flavors you choose don't matter. Hang out in the mailroom after chapel. Timing is of vital importance. The more people around, the better.

Pass the yummy treats out to your friends and neighbors. Ignore the "bucking for beau" comments.

Speak of how Pixie Stix sure would hit the spot about now. Encourage your friends to sup with you after they properly dispose of the mission reports.

Laugh, giggle. Have a festive time. Suddenly, grab your throat in a choke-like manner. Exclaim "NO! NO!" at the top of your lungs so that the HUB workers can hear you. Cross your eyes, lurch forth into the nearest wall, and vibrate from head to toe for 10 seconds.

Fall flat in the closest floor space. Peek at your friends from the corner of your eye. See the panic stricken, horrified people spit sugar on each other in a desperate manner.

Boy, oh, boy...you're having fun now.

These are just a couple of ways you and your friends can combat post-Halloween depression. There is a literal plethora of things you can do to stay happy while your face is clearing up. So...have fun.

Group is a "HUG"

by Wes Payne
Bison staff writer

Harding User Group (HUG), a group that is interested in the use of microcomputers, met last Wednesday.

HUG was organized during the fall of 1986 by Dr. Steve Baber, associate professor of math and computer science, and Charles Walker, associate professor of marketing and business. They invited the faculty that they knew owned or planned to purchase personal computers. They soon decided to invite all others to join, also. Members of the faculty, staff, students and friends of Harding now comprise the group.

A student does not have to be a particular major to take part in the meetings. Each meeting consists of talks, demonstrations and tutorials. HUG meets once a month during the school year.

The objective of HUG is to serve as a source of ideas and information to the members. The group also provides assistance in using software and hardware. The group is in the process of building and maintaining a library of software for use by the public.

The topic for the next meeting is "Demonstrations of the New IBM Family of Microcomputers," to be presented by a representative from Little Rock. The meeting will be held at noon on Nov. 24.

Letters . . .

(continued from page 2)

Editor's note: The story in question was originally written for a journalism class assignment last spring rather than for publication. When Harding began its own pizza delivery service this fall, the editor

asked the writer, Bill Everett, to update the story for *The Bison*. In doing so, he tried to contact every source used in the original but was unable to reach Mrs. Higginbotham. *The Bison* regrets running the material on Pizza Inn without permission. Everett said he did not represent himself as an Academy student.

MOVE to aid mission work

by Amy Blankenship
Bison editor

A program encouraging students entering all vocations to work as missionaries will be initiated in the spring semester.

Mission Opportunities in Vocational Evangelism (MOVE) is a program that will help a graduate find a job and get settled in an area where the church is weak or non-existent, according to Dr. Allan Isom, assistant dean of the School of Religion. "We hope to have the program in full operation in the spring," he said.

"The idea is to get our graduates to move to an area where the church needs help," said Isom.

Isom said this program was created as a result of a demand by churches across the country. President David Burks asked Isom to chair a committee, and Isom met with more than 20 faculty members with a "strong interest in supporting this type of work."

Congregations participating in MOVE will host students during their visit to the area,

help them locate job opportunities and orient them to church work in that area.

"We will only send graduates to churches that invite them," said Isom. "I will be sending letters to many churches, particularly those that have contacted us."

"We will really be working as an extension of the placement office," he explained. "We would like to encourage as many students as we can to get involved and go to these areas for at least two or three years." He noted that he would like to see teams formed to move to some of these locations.

In the future, Isom plans to develop this program to find overseas jobs for graduates. Harding now has the Harding Outreach Program of Evangelism (HOPE) which enables graduates to work as missionaries, but Isom hopes to help the graduates locate jobs in these areas.

"It will hopefully help the church, help the students in their vocations, and develop into a lasting love for this type of work," said Isom.



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Committee formed to uncover Restoration Movement history

by Amy Blankenship
Bison editor

The School of Religion has formed a committee to locate and identify artifacts and memorabilia of the Restoration Movement.

Dr. Allan Isom, assistant dean of the School of Religion and chairman of the committee, said, "We are looking particularly for very old church records that we can store and catalog. We would like students to be able to come to campus and have access to good restorational material as they study the history of the church."

Serving with Isom on the committee are Dr. Jimmy Allen, professor of Bible; Dr. Ray Muncy, chairman of the history and social science department; and Tom Eddins, associate professor of Bible.

According to Isom, this endeavor will be a continuing process. The committee is searching for records of some of the oldest

congregations, especially those in Arkansas, as well as church bulletins, pictures, sermon tapes, books and letters. "I would also like to obtain six or seven pulpits from which some of the great gospel preachers regularly spoke," said Isom.

"Right now, we're looking for relatives of the pioneers to whom some of these items may have been passed on," said Isom. "I'm also getting ready to write a letter to all of the churches in the brotherhood about the effort and see what will surface."

Isom hopes that the collection will encourage people to donate items to Harding in the future. "For example, we would like to acquire papers from debates that are going on right now," he said.

Items such as the pulpits would occasionally be put on display at events such as the annual Bible lectureship.

KHCA delay due to face-lift

by Mark Story
Bison staff writer

Harding's own campus radio station, KHCA (AM 560), has been having some technical problems solved and equipment repaired. Faculty advisor Lou Butterfield, assistant professor of communication, gave this as the reason for the delay of on-air broadcasting this year.

The station, in its 22nd year of college campus service, has undergone several alterations since its last semester of broadcast. Such changes include new top-of-the-line Harris broadcast control boards, both production and on-air boards, a new

distribution amplifier for the air room and a new audio-gain compressor.

The station is a "carrier current" station, which means that all the campus housing should receive it. However, some broadcast problems currently persist. Some lines from the station to dormitories are not intact or are flawed, and the reception of the programming is low quality, or in some cases not "listenable." Efforts to correct these problems by the end of the semester are being made, Butterfield said.

The staff for this semester consists of John Phillips, operation manager; Paul Greenhagen, on-air coordinator; Gary Cook, production director; Scott Bonk, music director; Janna Wharton, news director; Darren Longar, sales manager; and Kyle Reeves, engineer.



Homecoming Queen Stephanie McAfee is congratulated by football co-captains John Collins and Jack Moore, and President David Burks. McAfee was crowned last Friday in chapel to begin Homecoming weekend activities.

(Photo by Michael Rodgers)

What's Happening

TONIGHT

S.A. Movie, Flight of the Navigator, 7 and 9:30 p.m., Benson Auditorium.

TOMORROW

Football at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia

S.A. Movie, The Living Daylights, 7:30 p.m., Benson Auditorium

SUNDAY

Worship

MONDAY

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TUESDAY

Intramural College Bowl

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Long shares time, talent with students

by Kimberly Nunn
Bison staff writer

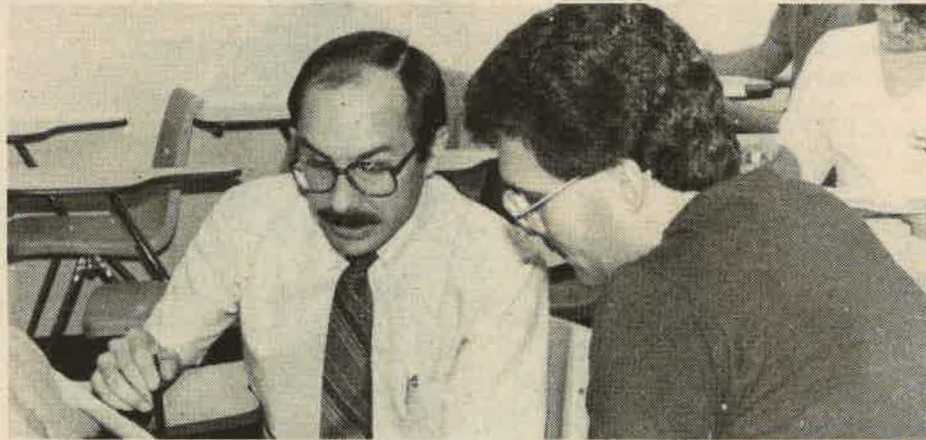
Whether one is a freshman or a senior getting ready to leave Harding, one will be treated equally by Dr. Larry Long, professor of English.

At the May, 1987 commencement ceremony, Long was presented with the Distinguished Teacher Award, an honor he had also received in 1982.

What does it take to become a Distinguished Teacher? It takes a teacher who will deal with each student individually and is caring and concerned about the students, as well as a teacher who gives fair and adequate assignments and is challenging to the students.

"I think that a teacher needs to meet those criteria, but you must show them you are trying to be a servant and a minister to them as you do it. I think that is the kind of criteria that the students are looking for," Long said.

Long is a strong believer in the individual student and the potential each possesses. He also realizes that not every student is an "A" student.



Dr. Larry Long helps a student with a paper in the writing lab.

(Photo by Michael Rodgers)

"The goal is not to be an 'A' student, but the goal is to be the best student that you can be," he said.

Long graduated with a bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University, and went on to spend another four years at Ohio State University, where he earned the master's and doctoral degrees.

He spends the majority of his time sharing his teaching talents with the students and faculty, but his remaining time is spent with his wife and two children, as well as pursuing hobbies of fly-fishing, and running. He manages to run at least three miles a day six days a week.

Wellness more than physical

House Call
by Dr. Mike Justus

All's well that ends well.

More accurately stated, all's well that is well. Wellness is active and full of motion. A static state signals deterioration.

Wellness involves permission to communicate. It permits the expression of conviction, of opinion and of disorganized thought. Responsible communication demands listening to conviction, to opinion and to disorganized thought in exchange. It requires speaking with the eyes as well as the tongue. And it demands listening with both an attentive and an empathetic ear. Communication requires touch...the touch of a hand, the touch of a long-distance voice, the touch of a pen to paper. The absence of communication undermines wellness.

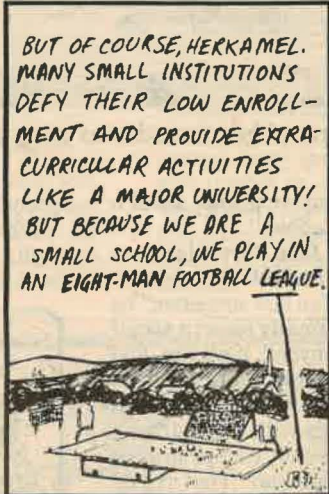
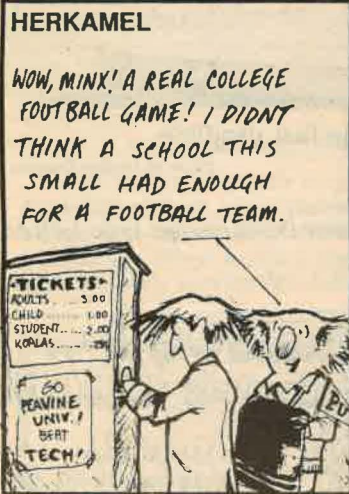
Wellness is enhanced by the reduction of fear. The state of wellness acknowledges the possibility of financial ruin. It recognizes the risk for nuclear war. It accepts the potential for incapacitating illness. But wellness also realizes that the fear of such trauma creates its own incapacitation. Wellness tempers fear with faith. It gives rise to personal initiative and belief that no situation will be greater than what can be borne.

Wellness does not focus on medication, prescription or otherwise. It does not thrive on a "quick-fix," medicinally or sexually. It is not nourished by an insatiable appetite for lifestyles of the rich and famous. Wellness is purpose and direction in decision making. It is taking responsibility for actions.

While this discussion departs from usual format, that departure, itself, reflects a facet of wellness. There is a healthy need for variation...for tasting new flavors...for extending frontiers. Whether mowing the grass diagonally instead of longitudinally or creating a patent, protected invention, variation on the theme of life is critical to wellness.

Wellness is not limited to an 1800 calorie diet and a lap around the track.

Wellness is life in motion.



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Congratulations
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of

"The King and I"

Dearin guides yearbook with dedication, confidence

by Phillip Tucker
Bison assistant editor

It is late evening, and a thin figure leaves Keller Hall with stacks of papers under his arms. His face has not been shaved in five days. He wears his glasses, because his contacts were making his eyes sore; he had stayed up all night the previous evening, and he would be again tonight. He has not eaten today, because eating is a "chore" for him. This is the beginning of a typical night for David Dearin, editor of the 1988 Petit Jean.

David, a senior French major from Ames, Iowa, has been a Petit Jean staff member each of his years at Harding, last year serving as assistant editor. He is the youngest yearbook editor in several years, as most past editors were seniors, at Harding four years. He is a senior after only three years, characteristic of David's "get it done" attitude.

David had also been a yearbook staff member in high school, serving as copy editor. That book, the AHS Spirit, was given the Golden Crown the year following his graduation. This distinguished award goes to each of the top five high school yearbooks in the country.

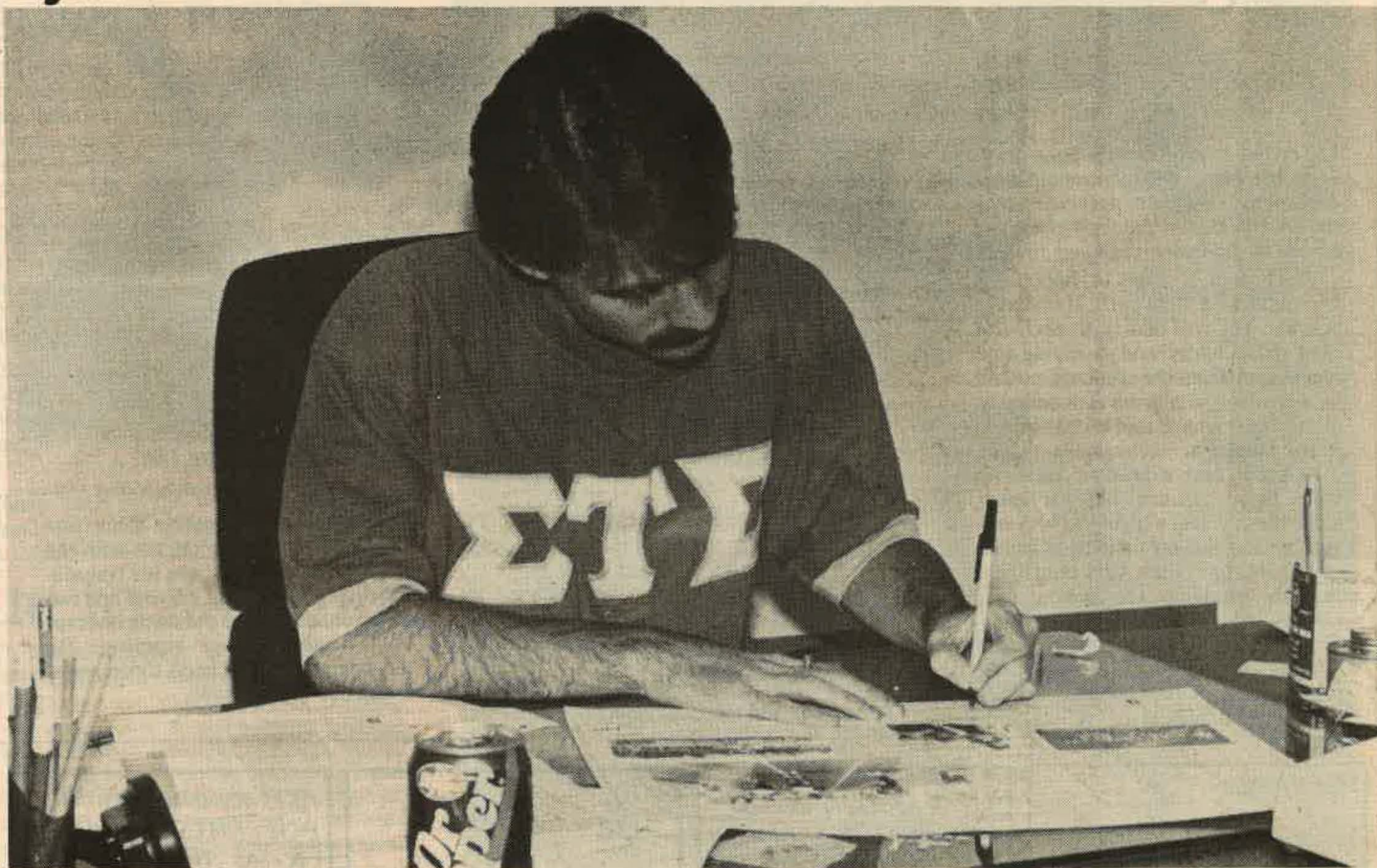
"I like to keep myself busy," David said understatedly. Besides his editing job, he is in the French Club, is a member of Sigma Tau Sigma social club and is a beau for Kappa Delta Kappa, something of which David is very proud.

David and his staff have just this week met their first Petit Jean deadline, and David is relieved. "What we've completed so far looks great. My young, inexperienced staff is wonderful, and my section editors show a lot of dedication to putting out a yearbook that best represents Harding and her Christian values.

"I don't think people realize how much dedication it takes to work on a yearbook staff, much less edit it," David continued. "It takes more time than I thought possible. I think my closer friends are beginning to understand this. I'm not neglecting them, but I am fully realizing how much responsibility this job takes."

To meet his first 80-page deadline, David spent seven "all-nighters" in the Petit Jean office out of eight days during the week before deadline. This does not include the countless hours he spent at the Harding Press typesetting and doing pasteups.

David explained that it can take from "two seconds to two hours" to do a layout on one page. "The process of making two pages, from the concept in mind to the point that it is ready to be published, should theoretically only take seven days if you play your cards right," David said. Seven days for two pages in the yearbook. In a 320-page yearbook, one can see that it is not a job to be taken lightly.



David Dearin, Petit Jean editor, works on one of the many pages in order to meet the first deadline.

(Photo by Michael Rodgers)

The Petit Jean has received an All-American rating for 28 consecutive years, a very prestigious honor. David explained that this rating means "recognition from experts in the field of print journalism in different categories such as theme development, photography, copy content and display." With this excellent past record, the pressure is on David to do it once again. But he is very optimistic: "I definitely believe my staff and I can put together another All-American."

Without giving away any "secrets," David said, "This yearbook will come as a shock to some; people will either like it or ... it will grow on them!"

He also said that it will be a noticeably thinner book, as for the first time since Harding Academy has been in existence, it will not be part of the Petit Jean. "I'm glad for this," David said, "because I feel, though the Academy is associated with Harding University, it is a separate institution, and should have its own yearbook. If I were a high school student, I would not want to read

through 300 pages in my yearbook about a place I knew nothing about."

Aside from the Petit Jean, David leads an active life with other interests, his club for one. "I jumped to Sig Tau last semester," he explained, "because I finally found a social club where I could be myself, have fun, and could be accepted for what I am. Sig Tau, to me, has Christian ideals that we strive to meet daily. When things with the yearbook become hectic, I can usually escape to a Sig Tau/Kappa Delta devotional. That really makes me feel better."

David is unsure at this time about his plans after graduation. "I've considered doing graduate work somewhere, or possibly finding a teaching job. What I really want to do, however, is to one day translate professional journals from French to English, and perhaps get with a publishing com-

pany."

Whatever David chooses to do, he'll do it well.

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Sports

Homecoming "hex" continues

by Greg Taylor
Bison staff writer

When the Bison's NAIA second-ranked defense in the country squared off against the University of Arkansas at Monticello's NAIA second ranked offense in the country, it was sure to be the struggle of irresistible force against an unmovable object. But something gave, and the Boll Weevils swiped the Homecoming crown again, 35-21.

It wasn't going to happen again, but it did. The Bisons planned to snap the Homecoming hex that UAM has held over them the last four homecoming games against them.

Harding was sliding out of national ranking after a 10-7 loss to Henderson State Oct. 24. They were ranked 20th, and UAM was ranked 13th. Since UAM had already lost two AIC games, they couldn't lose and stay in the AIC hunt. Harding (1-1) was in no position to lose another conference game either.

The Bisons scored first on a one-yard Glenn Segars run over right guard. It came after a 42-yard kickoff return by Keith Kelley, and a 15-yard penalty against UAM. The Bisons only had to drive 38 yards to score the touchdown. The next three touchdowns belonged to UAM. Quarterback Sean Rochelle hurled two touchdown passes, and Anthony Stitt, the top-ranked rusher in the AIC, tacked on the other.

The roof appeared to be caving in on the

Boll Weevils, however, when David Escue passed nine yards to Jack Moore to make it 21-14. The Bisons kicked off and Dennis Levenson picked up a Boll Weevil fumble on the return. Four plays later the Bisons tied the score on an Anthony Lowery four yard run with seven seconds left in the third quarter.

On the Boll Weevil's next possession the Bison defense came down hard. Steve Dudley and John Spann had a quarterback sack apiece, and that set up field position for the Bison's offense at mid-field. That's where it all went wrong. Harding drove again to take the lead until the Boll Weevils intercepted a Chris Hill halfback pass with 12:53 to play and drove 97 yards five plays to score and swing the momentum their way.

"Any time a team can drive 97 yards against the second-ranked defense in the country, they have the makings of a solid ball team," said Prock.

(See FOOTBALL, page 8)



Senior Kenneth Forte dumps the Boll Weevil quarterback for a loss as the Bisons dropped the Homecoming matchup 35-21. (Photo by Michael Rodgers)

Playoff plan produces undisputed champ

With the college football season nearly half over and the smell of Thanksgiving in the air, we can see and feel the Christmas break coming.

Christmas brings many fond memories to mind, like Mom baking an apple pie, Dad eating it, gathering the family to trim the Christmas tree, burning it two weeks later, finding a stocking with your name on it on Christmas morning, watching the snowflakes fall...on television, and just having that warm Christmas spirit inside your heart.

That's all nice stuff, but what really grabs so many people's attention and brings families together are college football and the bowl games.

Under the present system, the NCAA football champion is determined by the vote of the Associated Press, which is fine even if they didn't ask me to vote. The problem which has occurred too many times is the top teams may never get to play each other. How can a national champion be picked when the best teams never meet? Indeed the vote is merely a speculation of which team looked the best in comparison to the other teams. On occasion it has been simply a matter of who can come out with the best record, which is often attained by imaginative scheduling.

A football playoff would seem to be the answer but the loyalists say, "What about the bowl games? The tradition?" Here's a proposed system to satisfy both.

First, keep all of the bowl games the same except for the four major bowls on New

From the Cheap Seats by Toby Taylor

Year's Day: the Sugar, the Rose, the Cotton and the Orange. These bowls could remain the same with the top eight teams of the AP poll going to these games rather than the bowl committee making the choice. The four winning teams would continue the following week and the two winning teams would play a national championship one week later.

This would have a couple of advantages. This would make all four New Year's Day Bowl games very significant. We have seen the success of the basketball playoffs and the growing excitement as the tournament reaches the Final Four. Each of these bowl games would send one team on to football's "Final Four." But most important, we would have an undisputed national champion.

Now, I need your input. You can be a part of the first ever Bison mail-in sports opinion poll. On a card, piece of paper, napkin, used Scantron with a grade of 40% or less, or baseball card (bearing the likeness of Bob Uecker) write whether you agree or disagree with the above proposal adding any comments that you would like published in the next edition of Cheap Seats. Send them to: Cheap Seats, c/o Debbie Lape, Box 254.

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Lady Bisons paced by '86 AIC champion

by Greg Taylor
Bison staff writer

Five years ago the women's cross country team launched into its first season of competition by winning the AIC title.

In that short time only a handful of Lady Bisons have posted times that would rank them in a crowd of cross country All-Americans. Few have progressed so quickly, however, and have had such an impact on Harding cross country as sophomore Melynda Davis.

In her first meet as a freshman at Harding, the Gresham, Ore. native finished second. Davis hails from a run-crazed state where competition is always at a high level. She finished sixth in the state Class AAA high school cross country championship two years ago.

As a freshman, she led the team to its second Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference championship. Her individual victory in the AIC and NAIA District 17 Championships earned her a spot in the NAIA National Championship Meet in Kenosha, Wis., where she capped off her unprecedented freshman year by taking 28th place in the race. Her AIC and NAIA District 17 wins came after two other individual wins, and she is pacing herself for the same brand of performance this season.

She led the NAIA 13th-ranked Lady Bisons to their biggest win in the team's history on Oct. 10 on a soggy five kilometer course at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Davis clipped the tape in front of a field of 128 runners.

Her time of 19:37 was slowed by the damp and muddy course, but she trudged ahead of the pack. "It was raining during the race, but I didn't mind — I like to run in the rain," she quipped.

Her individual win helped the Lady Bisons win the 19-team meet, and the victory was



Melynda Davis

the best ever for Harding, according to Coach Ted Lloyd. It was Davis' first win this year. In each meet, she has been alternating finishes in the first and second spots with teammate Cheryl Bednosky.

"Cheryl drives me to finish strong, and has helped me finish strong in the Washington meet. We ran together the whole race and I didn't take the lead in front of her until the last kilometer. It's encouraging to run along side a teammate in a meet," she said.

"I just hung on and stayed with Cheryl. We led the pack in the last three kilometers and we knew it was just us, but there was a runner from Missouri Baptist very close behind."

Though she runs as a veteran among college level runners, the sophomore has only been running in organized competition for six years. "My father runs, and he got me

interested in running. He enjoys watching my brothers and I compete in cross country. He's kinda the family coach."

During the season, the All-AIC and All-NAIA District 17 honoree rolls up 40 miles supplemented with early morning runs. She believes in the old adage: "The team is only as strong as it's weakest link."

"The team is getting stronger, and we are able to run together as a pack. Our lead runner can run hard and know that there are good runners behind her. We have been running closer as a team — the top five finishing the Washington meet all within one minute and ten seconds of my time."

In a team of strong links, Davis is one of the strongest. Even though Davis has led the Lady Bisons in their biggest win ever, she doesn't feel pressured by her teammates or by Lloyd.

"Coach Lloyd doesn't put pressure on me to win every meet or finish first on the team in every meet. I don't feel pressure from my teammates either. I just go out and run."

Football . . .

(continued from page 7)

The Black and Gold never grabbed control of the game after that, but they controlled the front line from the outset.

"Our offensive line controlled their defense the entire game. I was especially pleased with the offensive line," commented Coach John Prock after the game.

Anthony Stitt, the NAIA top line rusher, scored two more touchdowns of five yards and 38 yards on his way to 177 yards rushing. That raised his eight game total to more than 1,000 yards.

The Boll Weevils were pushed back 75 yards by eight penalties, while the Bisons had none.

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