12-7-1990

The Bison, December 7, 1990

Prayers, hope for peace will follow students into Middle East conflict
by Carolyn Holmes

Steve sat behind me in psychology class before we actually spoke to each other. I laughed with him many times. He had an uncanny knack for breaking the monotony of a moment, and never failed to find some humor in any situation. Sitting only a few seats from each other in chapel, we would often joke casually about the non-regulation holes in the knees of his favorite pants.

While Steve never failed to make me laugh, I saw another side to him through his writing. He was a poet, always pouring his feelings and social conscience into gripping prose. I didn’t know him well. But well enough to feel like I’d been hit when I learned why his poetry seat was empty.

Of course, I knew that thousands of troops had been sent to Saudi Arabia. But now, suddenly, that number included someone I knew, Steve Mahan.

Not just a number — a living, breathing person. A Harding student. A friend.

The crisis in the gulf hit a little closer to home for many Harding students last week, when they returned from Thanksgiving to find their friends had suddenly been called away to fulfill their patriotic duties.

On Nov. 30, the Student Affairs Office listed nine Harding students that had been called to active duty in the Persian Gulf.

Freshmen David Cook, Mahan, and Bill Brunkhardt; sophomores Michael Cox, Tim Beason, and George Morris; juniors Dana Deree and Ken Fleming; and graduate student Patt Cope have all left for training. Within the next month, most will be shipped out to Saudi Arabia.

"Tensions are high," notes Steve Beliech, assistant dean of men. "They're uncertain as to the future. But I think it makes them feel good to feel that the student body, as well as the entire country, is behind them."

Deree's roommate and classmates received a call from him the Sunday after Thanksgiving, informing them he'd been called into active duty.

"It wasn't too much of a shock," admits Tony Hill, Deree's roommate. "He wasn't necessarily looking forward to it, but at the first of the year, he knew he might be called.

Fleming's brother, Randy, says they figured he would be called sooner or later.

Both Deree and Fleming, as well as Cox and Brunkhardt, are currently undergoing a month of training at Camp Lejeune in South Carolina. Hill and Randy Fleming report that, despite the situation, the reserves have a positive attitude, and are "pumped to get over there."

Cope, a graduate student and sponsor for Chi Alpha Rho social club, is the only Harding woman named to go as of yet. She will be working with an Army/National Guard medical unit in the gulf.

The Harding administration has made some special provisions for the students who have been called away.

According to Dr. Neale Pryor, vice president of academic affairs, they have three options:

- They can get a full refund on their tuition, they can take incomplete courses and have their grades held until they return, or they can have their assignments sent to them, in order for them to complete the semester on time.

None of these options, however, could be as satisfactory as having them here.

Across the nation, prayers are lifted for a quick, agreeable resolution, that by God's grace, the empty homes, dorms, and classroom seats will soon be filled again. This holiday season, no doubt, the most widely requested gift will be "peace on earth."

SA hosts second letter writing campaign to send holiday cheer to U.S. servicemen
by Luane Brewer

The Student Association is hosting a second letter writing campaign to the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia with Operation Desert Shield. The idea is that the letter writers be ing sent to offer Christmas cheer and to boost the morale of the soldiers.

The student participation has been excellent. Not only are students sending letters, but they are also now receiving responses from the first campaign.

One student, Pegi Puchner, said, "I believe what we are doing is great encouragement. I have received letters and pictures of my new friend in Saudi Arabia. It must be hard for them to be away from home without their families and friends, but at least they know that there are people out there who are thinking and praying for them. I know it is hard for them because several friends of mine from Harding have already left to go over there themselves."

Student President Susan Vaughn said that 300 to 300 Christmas cards have already been turned in. She said people are coming to her every day with either letters to be sent or letters they have received.

She also said that one soldier not only sent a reply to the student who had written him, but also sent a separate postcard saying, "The cards you have sent have really kept spirits up as well as morale. Please keep the cards and prayers coming."
Area earthquake nothing to get rattled about

"I'm sorry you had to come to class, but it's not my fault."
— Dr. Kenneth Hobby

It's over. The Great Earthquake Scare of 1990 has passed. No one was killed, or even injured. Buildings still stand, highways are intact and those sturdy shoes are back in the closet. It never happened.

The killer earthquake predicted to shake up the Searcy area last Monday was without doubt the number one topic of conversation on campus last week.

The collective panic began months ago with a surge in earthquake insurance sales and preparedness seminars. Hardware stores sold out of high-powered flashlights and first-aid kits. Area schools canceled classes, factories closed and students flocked home for extended weekends on safer ground. A few brave souls who stayed relatively spottily hardhats in chapel to avoid being buried in the rubble of Benton Auditorium.

At least I got mail. Every day last week I received brochures from the Red Cross and the State of Arkansas urging me to retrieve emergency water supplies from my toilet tank and to hold surprise practice drills with my roommate, so that we'd remember to dive under our desks when The Big One hit.

Although no one has yet successfully predicted an earthquake anywhere in the world with the accuracy that Christ promised a greater upheaval than anything that can be measured on the Richter Scale. "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." (II Peter 3:10-22)

That's it. No predictions, no newscasts, no seismology. Just a 2000-year-old warning, and plenty of time to prepare. Think about it. — CP

"Wasting" time with God gives break from stress

My week was growing more horrendous by the second.

I had to study for a public relations test; I had to put out a newspaper; I had to study for a Bible test; I had to prepare for a banquet; I had to throw together a stocking; and I had to write an editorial on something.

All of this excluded the little things, like room check, regular homework, huge projects and sleep that belieded for my attention. It was a hairy situation, yet there seemed to be nothing I could do to stop the relentless end-of-the-semester monster.

So what did I do?

I hit the road. I hopped in my car, and after running a few essential errands, I drove. I figured I would take my usual stress-collecting course: Annie Street to Riverdale Park. It is the perfect drive; you can speed around the curves and fly up the hills and pretend you are in the country. But I don't drive too fast — you can accelerate only so much with three cylinders and my car tends to take flight when I push it to 60 miles per hour.

It was a nice day to go out and forget everything; the sky was that fall blue color you can't find in any crayon. It was a nice day to go out and forget everything; the sky was that fall blue color you can't find in any crayon.

As I drove I looked at the quaint little houses festively decorated for Christmas. Bows and garland bedecked porch railings and door frames. Two beautiful chestnut trees gleefully glided up the street on their deluxe skateboards.

Young boys gleefully gushed up the street on their deluxe skateboards. I hit the road. I hopped in my car, and after running a few essential errands, I drove. I figured I would take my usual stress-collecting course: Annie Street to Riverdale Park. It is the perfect drive; you can speed around the curves and fly up the hills and pretend you are in the country.

I realized simply that we can't predict the date or time of a quake any more than we know when Jesus is coming. And there is a 100 percent probability that the latter will happen opposed to the 40 to 63 percent chance of an earthquake, as quoted in a Memphis State University Earthquake Center brochure. It's simple math, if there is such a thing.

Sturdy shoes and bottled water won't help us hike to the Pearly Gates. How different our lives would be if we prepared as carefully as we did for an earthquake that wasn't.

Christ's coming promises a greater upheaval than anything that can be measured on the Richter Scale. "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." (II Peter 3:10-22)

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At the park, I got out of my car and headed toward my favorite thinking spot, which I must keep secret, or else everyone will flock to my hideaway. On my way there I kicked leaves, jumped on rocks and really looked at nature. The deep green moss, composed of millions of tiny stars, made a forest pathway; nature's indoor-outdoor carpeting.

The leaves blanketed the smaller shrubs and plants and squirrels cheerfully chattered with each other and played tag.

The thing I remember the most was the quiet. It wasn't a loud, lonely quiet, but a comforting, peaceful quiet. To talk would have seemed like a violation of the sacred sanctuary.
College Bowl competition to decide regional team

by Greg Harrington

Next Friday, be looking forward to some fierce competition in chapel. At 10 minutes after nine o'clock, two college teams will face off with hopes of representing Harding at the regional College Bowl competition. The two teams started competing against 10 other teams last month in a round robin competition. These two teams have emerged with the best record.

The first and undefeated team consists of members who went to the regionals last year: Dennis Mann, David Sacher, Kevin West and Brice Carrell.

The opposing team, determined on making a name for themselves, is made up of members Jim Hull, Will Glade, Travis McNeal, Paul Frutti and alternate Allen Baby.

College Bowl is an academic competition in which two teams with four members each try to answer a question before the other. It follows the same format as the television game show, Jeopardy, with contestants buzzing in when they know the answer. Dr. Dennis Organ, College Bowl coordinator, said, “College Bowl is designed for students who enjoy competing on an academic level.”

The contestants get to show their knowledge in topics such as sports, geography, history, and entertainment. When a team member answers a question correctly, the team gets a chance to answer a bonus question.

The rewards in this game are simply in the pride of defeating other teams and the chance to represent Harding at the regional competition. Glade said, “I really hope I get a chance to help take Harding where no other team has gone, the national competition.”

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BENEVOLENCE AID. Dr. David Staggs, left, accepts funds collected on the Harding campus for aid to His House, a benevolence program of the College Church of Christ. Robyn Worrell, center, and Clayton McLeod, right, headed the committee to collect student donations of $1,417.61. (photo by Sharon West)

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**Gospel Singsong tonight to be held in Benson; 3,000 expected to attend**

by Angie Beat
Bison staff writer

It could be considered a prevalent cause of laryngitis, but it will definitely be the reason for great rejoicing. Tonight Harding University will host the 24th Annual Gospel Singsong from 7 p.m. until midnight.

In conjunction with V. E. Howard, a speaker on radio's International Gospel Hour, Harding will welcome more than 1,000 visitors who are expected to participate.

"We can never be exactly sure of how many people will be here," Dr. Clifton Ganus Jr., Singsong coordinator, said. "We do predict to see 1,300 to 1,500 visitors."

Although flyers advertise Singsong to end at 11 p.m., the activity will continue until midnight.

"We are singing until midnight in order for the radio stations to pick us up," Ganus said.

There will be a one-hour delayed broadcast to more than 17 radio stations in the southeast, including Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and New Mexico. Song will also be heard in Canada and Mexico.

Singsong was created by Howard and originated in Texarkana, Texas. Howard plans year-round and Harding has worked several months coordinating the final ideas for this activity.

"It takes a lot of work for an event such as this," Ganus said. "There are so many different songleaders and groups to organize — not to mention Singsong advertisement."

Songleaders from surrounding states will direct visitors and the Harding University Chorus and Concert Choir will perform, as well as the Harmony Boys Quartet.

There will be song books and tapes available for visitors who wish to purchase a reminder of this event.

Five hours of singing may be quite an unpleasant experience for some individuals to remember, but singing is not the main reason for the gathering of 3,000 people in Benson Auditorium tonight.

"This is a period for fellowship," Ganus said. "This is a night for praise and expression of joy. Through this we will uplift, build and teach others."

**Brown-Dunn concert cancelled by promoters**

by Stacy Scott
Bison staff writer

The T. Graham Brown and Holly Dunn concert that was scheduled for Friday, Nov. 30, was cancelled last week due to scheduling difficulties.

Steve Beliech, director of student activities and assistant dean of men, said that the concert was sponsored by the Searcy Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Holiday of Lights celebration. Harding’s only relation was the donation of Benson Auditorium to the community for the performance.

Beliech, who is also co-chairman of the Holiday of Lights committee, said that there were no problems between the Chamber of Commerce, Harding or the promoters of Brown and Dunn. He said that the promoters just decided that the schedules for Brown and Dunn were too tight.

Brown and Dunn are popular country performers. Brown sings and plays guitar on Taco Bell commercials and Dunn sings the hit song “Daddy’s Hands.”
Jordanaires member leads singing, fellowship in chapel song services

by Carolyn Holmes

Lounging in the student center, surround­ed by a captive audience of students, Ray Walker told his tale.

"How can I get into the recording business?" they asked him.

"How did you handle so many foster children?"

And, of course, the ever-popular, "What was Elvis REALLY like?"

Walker's enthusiastic grin never faded as he pumped out stories, words of wisdom and advice. Although his original purpose at Harding had been to conduct song services for chapel Monday through Wednesday, he wasn't too busy to talk to anyone who passed him that afternoon.

Being at Harding is the closest thing I've had to a vacation in a long time," he confided. "The kids have been so accepting. I didn't have to change myself to be here."

Born to evangelist R. C. and Elizabeth Walker, music was always a part of Ray's life. He led his first song at the age of six, and at age 10 he sang with the mighty Jordanaires quartets. He was always a part of Ray's life. He led his first song at the age of six, and was active in the church ever since. By the time he was 14, he preached regular­ly at a church 100 miles from his home. Although his family moved every two to four years, he was always involved in school quartets.

At the age of 13, he met a girl named Marilyn, whom he dated for a year. Her family then moved to Detroit, and they wrote back and forth for a little while. By the time Walker attended David Lipscomb in 1952, he had lost touch with Marilyn. But she was never far from his mind.

In addition to his singing, Walker and his wife raised six of their own children and 23 foster children. Most often, they heard about the children through calls or referrals. They housed newborns to teenagers who needed an immediate home. Some even stayed, and the Walkers put them through college.

"You don't have to look around for the Lord's work," he said. "It will come your way. When the door is knocked on, you answer it."

To answer everybody's favorite question, Walker describes Elvis Presley as courteous, quiet and charming. It was his soft heart that got him into trouble.

"He couldn't say no," Walker said. "He had a dry sense of humor and was easy to get along with — until he lost the will to live."

After he leaves Harding, Walker will spend most of December at home. Around New Year's Eve, the Jordanaires will per­form in Dubai in the Persian Gulf. Then, during January and February, they will sing in England, Scotland and Ireland.

Walker's visit to Harding will not soon be forgotten. "I always knew I'd marry her. It just felt right." After graduating with a major in speech and minors in Bible, music and education, he taught school. At age 26, he became the youngest principal in the state of Tennessee, and continued in school administration until 1955.

By this time, a tape of Walker's song leading had reached a group called the Jordanaires. They were in need of a bass, and Walker's present job would end soon anyway. So Walker accepted their offer. Again, he explains, he didn't worry about the future, because things always fell into place.

"Whenever it came time to change, there was nowhere else to go."

The Jordanaires, in addition to singing with Elvis Presley, went on to become the most recorded group ever, and have re­mained one of the top 10 singing groups in Europe to date.

When he's not singing with the group, Walker leads congregational workshops, youth rallies and singouts. His purpose, he explains, is to get people to express themselves through song.

"Singing is the only thing we can all get together and do, and the only thing women can do in assembly at all. We do it so little, it should be equality."
'Lady Bisons are getting job done with basics,' Harnden says  

by Terry Austin  

The Lady Bison basketball team is one of Harding's best-kept secrets, and second-year coach Greg Harnden thinks he knows why.  

"Well, the most wins a Lady Bison team has ever had in a season is nine," said Harnden.  

But the program has obviously taken great strides under the watchful eye of the coach. The Lady Bison machine had a 5-3 record coming into the week, and it was fresh off a tournament victory over John Brown University at JBU's invitational tourney. Harnden called the win, "the team's biggest to date."  

"First of all, we hadn't beaten them in a couple of years at least," said Harnden.  

"And they beat us by 13 points the last four years. This is our home court in the finals of their tournament."  

Harding is doing pretty well on the tournament scene already. The Lady Bisons have finished second in one tournament, and they won the JBU tourney this season already. Actually, the Lady Bisons are doing well in every facet of the game. The team is off to the best start in Harding women's basketball history, and they have won five of their last six games (as of Dec. 2).  

The Lady Bisons are getting the job done with basics, said Harnden. "Our goals team-wise are to play with more intensity than our opponents, and to be in better shape than our opponents."  

Harnden says that the team is just that — a team. His offense is balanced and the defense is intense. For proof, look at the inside power of the school for Harding through its first eight games.  

Sophomore Nancy Wilson, junior Karyl Hartfield, and senior Kara Hutchinson are all averaging double figures in scoring, and all are between the 12-14 point range. Wilson is averaging 16 rebounds per game, and junior Christine Pullen is averaging 18 rebounds per game. Sophomore Maria Lewis and Hutchinson are averaging four assists a game.  

Senior guard Hutchinson has impressed Harnden already this season. "She's been the biggest surprise of the year already," said Harnden. "Her ball handling, speed and quickness have improved quickly. Nobody we've played has been able to keep up with her."  

So far, very few teams have been able to keep up with the Lady Bisons, either.  

Junior David Collins ties game-high record  

Harding University junior David Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Collins of Harrison, ended the game with a total of eight shots in a recent game against Central Arkansas. Collins, a two-year letterman, ended the game with a total of 24 points to lead the Bisons.  

A biology major, Collins averaged 2.1 points per game last year for the Bisons and is the final act of a three-brother play who have played at Harding.  

WE BACK BISON SPORTS  

Holiday musical written and produced by students set to start on Saturday  

by Stacy Scott  

The exciting new musical "Christmas Wishes," will be performed at Harding this December, but this is no ordinary musical. "Christmas Wishes" is written, directed, produced and completely run by students. This musical offers an innovative and fulfilling challenge for the students, and all who are involved expressed a great enthusiasm for this opportunity.  

This is the first time Harding has allowed a musical production to be put together without the supervision of a faculty member. The cast attributes its success to the faith and moral support of the university and gives special credit to Dr. Morris Ellis, Dick Hertter, and Jeffrey Hopper.  

"Christmas Wishes" is a story of five lives that are filled with their own unique and traumatic problems... What follows is a touching, heartwarming Christmas story that gives Charles Dickens a run for his money."  

The students do not have a budget to provide the necessary materials for a musical, but they have successfully put together a set and costumes, relying on extras in the drama shop and on their own resources. Dr. John H. Ryan, chairman of the communication department, has also given the cast the use of previous Spring Sing dresses to be used in the finale.  

Because a donation was made to the music department, Hertter will have access to a new computer program which will allow her to write out her music from a keyboard and then print out each individual part as well as the music as a whole. This program will save hours of hand writing.  

"Christmas Wishes" is a story of five lives that are filled with their own unique and traumatic problems. These lives are brought together when an elevator they are riding in breaks down. What follows is a touching, heartwarming Christmas story that gives Charles Dickens a run for his money.  

The Lady Bisons were defeated by the Lady Bears last Saturday on their home turf. (photos by Kara Kutch)
Svymbersky performs, sings at Opryland
by Laura Moore

Many young people dream of performing in front of thousands of people and hearing the applause. Others would want at the idea. Julie Svymbersky, a senior from Derby, Kan., did not want when she got the chance to perform at Opryland in Nashville, Tenn., this past summer.

Opryland is an amusement park which provides country music shows. However, Opryland was not always a dream for Svymbersky. After seeing a poster about the talent show sponsored by Opryland, she decided to try out.

"I just had the belief that it doesn't hurt to go out and have fun. If God wants you to be in something, you will be in it," she said. According to Svymbersky, trying out was just a whim. It turned out to be more than a whim when Svymbersky won the talent show. She was one of 20 who made it out of almost 7,000 who tried out in the city-wide talent search conducted by Opryland.

Being a performer at Opryland was not easy for Svymbersky. She worked a 50-hour week, and during the first few weeks of rehearsal danced six to eight hours and sang four hours a day. After the show opened June 1, she worked in three to four shows a day, six days a week.

Svymbersky got to meet a few celebrities during her stay in Nashville, including Barbara Mandrell, Lee Greenwood, Minnie Pearl and Brenda Lee. She hopes to work at Opryland again next summer.

As for Svymbersky's future career plans, she hopes to move to Nashville to record and write contemporary Christian music. According to Svymbersky, the experience of just being at Opryland has helped her in her plans for the future.

And that seems to be a lot for a normal Opryland was.

Summer school blamed for late finals week
by Greg Harrington

There have been several rumors about why the fall semester is finishing up so late this year. Some say the reason final exams will last through Dec. 21 is because Thanksgiving was so late this year; others say it's because of Sadie Hawkins week, but most just don't understand.

So, I investigated.

Neale Pryor, Harding's vice president of academic affairs, explained, "The reason we're letting our students go back to summer school. We decided to start summer school a little later this year so public school teachers could attend graduate school classes at Harding.

Another reason the fall semester started late is that the newly remodeled Cathcart and Armstrong dormitories weren't quite ready to be occupied.

This whole situation has led to a few problems for some Harding students. For those who live really far away, it will take until Christmas Eve to get there. Troy Chandler, a junior from Little Rock, complained, "I won't have any time to get gifts." Teachers will also be pressed for time, trying to get their grades in by Monday, Dec. 18. They have been encouraged to turn them in by Saturday so the record keepers won't have to work on Christmas Eve.

Pryor said there haven't been too many complaints — just a lot of questions.
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