Stunned campus begins to cope with the loss

**News at a Glance**

- Former Philadelphia City Council member Jim Tayoun Sr., who served three and a half years in a federal prison on corruption charges, has established a 500 number which offers advice to white-collar criminals about entering prison.
- Peter Hodgson, 30, whose grandfather once lent a tape recorder to Beatles member Paul McCartney, claims to have found a tape of the group performing as the Quarry Men Skiffle Group. The 1959 tape has 16 recorded songs.
- Almost 170 teachers in Boulder, Colo., are expected to lose their jobs as the school district tries to cut $7.3 million from its budget.
- Following a crash that killed a pregnant woman, the state Supreme Court in Jefferson City, Mo., ruled that life begins at conception in wrongful death cases.
- Wrongfully accused of making a bomb threat, 18-year-old Walter Hill was offered a four-year scholarship by NYNEX, the company which mistakenly traced the threatening phone call to Hill.
- Twenty years after the end of the Vietnam War, Vietnam's premier, Vo Van Kiet, appealed to U.S. lawmakers for full diplomatic and trade relations with Washington.

The week after her death, a campus of friends remembered Carla Willmon and the special ways she touched their lives. "A gentle and quiet spirit" is how E-Beth Wilson, Willmon's roommate, described her.

Wilson, smiling as she talked about the nightly ritual of watching television and "pigging out" on her roommate, Holly Carpenter, shared with Willmon.

"Sometimes she would be watching something in her room, and we would hear her laughing. She'd come running into our room and say, 'Did you see that?' She was one of those people that you loved to be around because she could always make you laugh."

Laughter was a rare commodity on campus last week as everyone began to cope with such a tragic loss. Thoughts of the life Willmon would never have filled the minds of those who had known her. Discovering that Willmon had secretly been married since March was at first a shock to friends and family, but surprise has now been replaced by acceptance. "Her family and I think that it was a good thing (Willmon's marriage). That's one more thing in life that she got to experience," Wilson said. Keeping such a large secret was out of character for Willmon, who, according to Wilson, was often the last person to pick up on the secrets of others. "She was always so naive and innocent. She would believe anything you told her. She was the one to pull the wool over everyone's eyes this time."

Although Willmon's life was cut short, she did not leave without making an impression on the lives of others. "She was like a magnet - she just drew people to her," Willmon said. Even in her death, Willmon has drawn people to her as she continues to be mourned by students and faculty, many of whom had never met her. Her death has had a profound effect on the Harding family, creating a renewed spirit of unity.

The support of friends has been very important for those close to Willmon, especially her Tri Kappa club sisters. "If there is one good thing that has come out of this whole thing, it is the unity that we (Tri Kappa) have experienced. We had a devotional with (Kappa Sigma Kappa) the day after her death, and a lot of people were thinking more about their spirituality," Wilson said.

Life without Willmon has been an adjustment for those who knew her well. "Reality hasn't hit yet. I spent last weekend with Carla and she wore on, and reports of the discovery of Willmon's car began to flow around campus, hope began to wane, and was finally extinguished with the uncovering of her body in the trunk of her car. At the time of the discovery, police had no suspects and no leads in the case.

News of the tragedy spread across campus and throughout Searcy, so did the disbelief that something like this could happen at Harding. "I was just shocked. I didn't expect something that bad to have happened," junior Liz Magcder said.

The first opportunity for the entire student body to assemble following the discovery of Willmon's body came during chapel Wednesday morning. There was no need for Dr. David Burks to call everyone to order to begin the service - a solemn silence had fallen across the audience as he had approached the microphone to speak. Following Burks' sharing of the most recent information in the investigation, Dr. Joe Brunfield, Willmon's Bible teacher, Mark Pugh, the minister at the Downtown Church of Christ, and Moore recalled memories of Willmon and offered words of encouragement.

A very somber air hung over the campus for the rest of Wednesday, as Willmon's friends grieved and people who had never met her began to cope with feelings of fear and disbelief.

Wednesday and Thursday came and went with no arrests, and apparently no suspects. Then around 2 a.m. Friday, authorities arrested two Jodohua men who had reportedly been seen about one mile from where Willmon's car was found within the time-frame of her disappearance. The men, who wept at their first court appearance on Friday, are being held without bond in the White County Detention Center on charges of capital murder.

Officials have released details related to the body or the cause of death.

**Abducted coed meets tragic end**

In the hours that passed after Carla Willmon didn't return to Patte Cobb at curfew on April 17, friends and administrators hoped that somehow she would return safely. But as Tuesday wore on, and reports of the discovery of Willmon's car began to flow around campus, hope began to wane, and was finally extinguished with the uncovering of her body in the trunk of her car. At the time of the discovery, police had no suspects and no leads in the case.

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Tragedies, though painful, teach valuable lessons

By Blaine Covert

Few ideas are more ingrained in the minds of America's youth than the absolute necessity of a college education. Higher education fulfills its purpose by giving graduates opportunities to succeed in today's tough job market. There is the contention, however, that higher education just isn't what it used to be. Do people the claiming that a college degree isn't worth getting honestly think a person is better off without one? I hope not, for they would be sadly mistaken.

A college degree is more valuable today than it has ever been, and its value continues to increase every year.

To be fair, approximately 20 percent of college graduates were underemployed during the 1980s, but underemployment cannot be defined as a college graduate who works in an occupation that usually doesn't require a four-year college degree. We must take into consideration, though, that a small percentage of these underemployed people choose to be.

Underemployment has been caused primarily by the increasing enrollment in United States colleges and universities, coupled with a stagnant economy, which brings us back to the concept of supply and demand. Educational analysts say that schools can help the situation by focusing on the quality and not the number of degrees awarded; what counts is how hard students work and how much they actually learn.

With this 20 percent rate of underemployment, most would agree that competition in the job market is at an all-time high, which proves my point that a college education has never been more important. Granted, a degree does not guarantee its holder a job, but a person with a degree does have a legitimate chance in today's market. Those without a degree simply do not have that chance. If nothing more, a degree fulfills its purpose by opening doors.

Besides preparing students for the job market, college allows students to gain a new view of themselves. They see themselves in the light of responsibility. They find themselves crawling out of bed instead of skipping the snooze and waiting for Mom's shrill beckon. They find themselves studying for that test instead of "hanging out with the guys." They find themselves feeling proud of that "A" paper because they know the work that went into it.

College students also view themselves more clearly as they are challenged with new ideas. Students often come to college with a program of beliefs built by well-meaning parents. At some point, a mature student must find his own system of beliefs by exposing himself to a variety of ideas.

These new ideas and responsibilities are, at times, frightening. But, because other students are experiencing the same transitions, the same growth and the same fears, change is made easier through friendships with these other students. When bombarded with new experiences, students can lean on each other and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

But intrinsic values are not the only beneficial factors of a liberal arts education. College graduates earn nearly 60 percent more per year than their high school counterparts do.

A college education gives you more leverage in today's competitive job market. It allows you to grow and develop as a mature individual, and it carries with it a 80-percent salary premium. Statistics show that a college degree does not necessarily guarantee success, but the evidence proves that a college education is the first step in the right direction.

Educators have forgotten what is valuable

By Jutie O'Farrell

Don't panic, but the word is out—the American higher education system has failed our generation. Law school graduates are working as waiters; themarkets are flooded. College promises to create productive people, and in that it has failed... so people say.

I agree that the American educational system is failing, but not because of jobs or money. It is failing because it has lost sight of what makes people productive. Too much classroom curriculum focuses on the mighty pocketbook.

Too little educational energy pushes the student toward the true components of a productive person: driving optimism, boundless imagination and a crystalline vision of the eternal soul.

The picture presented to students is grim. In fact, a study comparing 1972 students to those in 1992 shines a bright light through the dense fog of pessimism that pervades our generation. The study found that students have taken God away, too. After stealing the Bible is spoken of there as a great piece of literature—nothing more. "Jesus was a good man, but he did not save the world. Heaven is only our subconscious way to cope with finality: And God!" God is simply a myth created in the minds of a desperate society.

And desperate we are—desperate for productive people in a world that has forgotten the One who produces them.
To the Editor:

This semester has been difficult. It has seemed to be one long string of tragedies. Spring break involved two of our number in terrible accidents. I can't remember how many prayer requests I've heard for Drew, and I don't think any of us who heard it will ever forget the letter that John wrote to us which was read in chapel. Now one of our number has been killed. The powers of this dark world reached in among us.

I keep thinking about that, and all the friends? How could he allow this dark thing to happen? Why must we taste this pain?

I don't know. Maybe God knew that this would be a difficult semester, so he prepared us by guiding the campus leaders to have a week of chapel on prayer. Maybe he heard our prayer for deeper faith and that we needed pain to get there, and so he let these terrible things happen. Perhaps there is no relationship at all, and God allows events to control themselves. I do not know the mind of God.

But I do know my own faith is challenged by these things. I can't help but wonder why it is that God should protect one man who fell through the ceiling of the Benson to what should have been his death, but not save the life of a girl who did nothing to earn her cruel murder. Why does he use his power to protect sometimes, and not others? I can't help but wonder.

Still, God is our God. He is our guide through this dark, evil world. We can't forget that this is a world at war, not at all the peaceful Eden that God first created. Our adversary, Satan, would have us blame God for the evil he himself does.

God is a great and mighty teacher, and he would have us learn from his lessons. His lessons can be hard. His goal in our lives is not just to make us happy, but to help us to love him and to love each other. That's the lesson we should have learned from that week of chapel—that God cares, even when it seems he does not. That when it seems he is the farthest away, he is actually the closest, and that he loves us too much to protect us from all pain.

God cares for us now. He is reaching out to those of us who are suffering. God is not far from the broken-hearted. He is a refuge for crushed people.

Oh, God, increase our faith. Oh, God, please be gentle if you can. Oh, God, increase our faith.

Editor of the Bison:

Thanks to Tracy Evans for many thoughtful editorials during the past year, especially for the editorials which have called on students to examine the differences between biblical faith and "pop" Christianity. She has warned readers that those movements, which seem to offer much while expecting little, often turn out to be "fads" rather than the call of Jesus to take up the cross and follow him.

Dr. Deane McCampbell
Post-graduation life resembles an earthquake

by Carolyn Holmes
Former Bison columnist/Harding alumni

I feel the earth... move... under my feet. Relax? This isn't another warning about the New Madrid Fault or the earthquake Arkansas may have some day. The shaking I'm talking about has nothing to do with seismic activity. It has everything to do with the 'Big G' (nothing to do with Ganus)! Those of you preparing to pick up your caps and gowns know of what I speak. Are your knees knocking a little these days when you think about the 'real world'? It's just the tremors of change, shifting the ground you're standing on.

In the months to come, your footing may seem less certain. Familiar paths may be less sturdy as your piece of ground is raised. Your thinking will be shaken up, too. In short, you're headed for an adventure, a remarkable rendezvous with the unknown.

Perhaps I should explain my reasons for the earthquake motif. Since I recently began working with the Red Cross, I've been hearing a lot about earthquakes. Portland's supposed to have a biggie sometime in the next 500 years, so everybody's getting ready. I even had to take a four-hour preparedness course yesterday!

Unlike an earthquake, entering the real world doesn't have to be tragic or devastating. But life after graduation will test the world as you know it. So, to offer a tip from earthquake prep training, here's your survival guide! Here's a check-list of suggested supplies from someone who's been there.

1. Plan A - Although we can never be sure of what to expect in life's earthquakes, the prepared individual has a single plan. As you put together your survival strategy for the days to come, consult the supreme planning guide and its author. From there, make a list of personal goals and rules for your life. That way, when a path you're walking seems questionable, you can check it against your list and see if it really helps you reach your ultimate destination. Independence is a lovely thing, but it's accompanied by big questions of ethics, morals and beliefs. If you already know where you stand, you'll be less likely to fall when the earth shakes.

2. Study Shoes - Unless you are one of the lucky few who already have a job lined up, you will need them for pounding the pavement. It can take months to find a job in your field. It has for most people I know. But don't give up! Just when I thought I was at the doorstep of Denny's, God provided me with a terrific entry-level job in my field. And working hard for it has made me appreciate it all the more.

3. Tissue - Keep them accessible for the days when everything is too unfamiliar, too lonely or too uncertain. If you think you've too much for tears, pack a first-aid kit instead. It will come in handy after ramming your fist into the wall. OK, I may be exaggerating. But my point: frustrating days are part of the transition into the 'real world.' Realize that we all have them, that it's OK to have them, and that you aren't alone... which leads to the next supply.

4. Important Addresses/Phone Numbers - Keep in touch with your old friends. Mail and phone calls from my college buddies, who are experiencing the same things I am, are vital reminders to me that I'm not the only one feeling this earthquake. We share the successes in our new lives and help each other cope with the bad days through our prayers and common memories.

5. Water Filter - Don't swallow everything you hear. Because of our Bible training, we may be able to tune out a lot of strange doctrines. But the more subtle lifestyle choices can be more difficult. 'When so many people drink a lot, can it be that bad? And everyone out here sleeps with the people they date, so is it really that important to wait? No matter how strong we are, we can easily be affected by the views of those around us. The pollution doesn't necessarily pile up all at once. Over time, even things that were once crystal clear to us can become cloudy. We have to be aware of the impurities and continue to filter them out.

6. Daily Bread - The earthquake manual says to pack a 72-hour food supply. In the spiritual sense, however, we can't plan that far in advance. Many times, I've found myself struggling to make this new life perfectly settled and orderly right now. But God wants us to enjoy and experience the new challenges of each day, whether or not things are going according to our plans. He wants us to see that, through each moment of these tremors, he's right there to feed and comfort us.

7. Flashlight - 'The unfolding of your words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple.' (Psalm 119:130). I like the way unfolding there. In this adventure we call life, something new is unfolding every day. And with each new challenge I face, I feel like God's ancient words, too, are unfolding before me in a whole new way. In an earthquake, there will be unexpected pies and fashions. But with a flashlight, even the 'simple' man can see where he's going, and he'll make it through. I've still got a lot to discover about the real world. I'm still just a fresherman out here, re-learning the ropes. But quite honestly, I love it. And each time the ground shudders, I feel my legs getting a little stronger.

Hey, this is life. The ground will always be moving. So be prepared, and enjoy the ride. If all else fails, you've got earthquake insurance: 'God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: The Lord knows those who are His.' (II Tim. 2:19).

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Playing for a friend. Titans, with the help of two corporate sponsors, organized a three-person volleyball tournament to raise money for Drew Rouhana. Last weekend's effort earned more than $1,300 to defray Rouhana's medical expenses. Rouhana, who was injured in an accident while on a spring break campaign, was not covered by medical insurance. PR photo.
Opening a book properly. Dr. Joe Pryor demonstrates how to open a yearbook without breaking the binding. The 1995 Petit Jean was dedicated in chapel yesterday. Photo by Jason Hurt.

1995 Petit Jean is 'A Change of Pace'
by Cheri McManus  
Bison staff writer

In addition to the selection of a theme, the Petit Jean dedication requires careful thought and consideration. Each year, students and faculty members look forward to the dedication ceremony. The 1995 senior class chose English professor, Dr. Larry Long, as the recipient of the Petit Jean dedication.

Long came to Harding in 1976. Since then, he has influenced countless students as their friend, mentor and hero. Long is a sponsor of Alpha Chi and a deacon at the College Church, where he teaches classes for engaged and married students. Baine chose the theme, "Setting the Pace," to describe Long's positive influence on students.

Baine brought four years' experience and lots of hard work and dedication to his position as editor of the Petit Jean. He has been on the staff for four years and has served the last two years as editor. According to Kay Gowen, adviser, Baine's talents bring depth to the student body. "It's great that we've bought all of our cows for Croatia," said, "We need some help from the student body." S.A. President Nathan Mellor said, "It's great that we've bought all of these cows, but right now, they are all nameless. We need your input. Please send your suggestions to campus box 2910."

"A Cows for Croatia" spokesperson said that, due to severe bombing in Croatia right now, the trip has been postponed. However, he said that, as soon as his organization feels it is safe to go, the cows will be delivered to the families there.

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Events at a Glance

- Robert Powell's senior art show, "I wish," will be on display in the Stevens Art Gallery May 1-5.
- The Counseling Center is sponsoring a women's seminar entitled "Especially for Women: Challenges, Struggles and Victories," tomorrow in the Administration Auditorium. Doris Black from Round Rock, Texas, will speak. Registration begins at 8 a.m.
- "The Dining Room," a student-produced play written by A.R. Gurney, will be performed tonight and tomorrow night at 7 in the Little Theatre. Admission is $2.
- "The Swan Princess" will be showing in the Administration Auditorium tonight at 7 and 9:30. Admission is $2.
- "Pagemaster" will be showing tomorrow night at 7 and 9:30 in the Administration Auditorium. Admission is $2.
- Next weekend, the SAC will be showing "Jungle Book" on Friday night and "L.O.V." on Saturday night. Both movies will be shown in the Benson at 7 and 9:30.
- "Crazy for You," the Tony-winning musical, will be showing in Little Rock on May 9 and 10. Call 661-1500 for tickets.
New officers waiting in the wings

By Heather Allison
Bison staff writer

New officers have been elected for the 1995-96 Student Association.

Ryan Sorrell ran his campaign and successfully landed the presidency while spending the semester at HUF. He hoped people would not find his bid for the position a joke; and the ballot totals indicated that students took him seriously.

Sorrell's main goal for next year will be to have more people involved around campus. He said he does not want the same people doing everything all the time. "I would like to provide more opportunities for people to come out of their shells," he said. Sorrell was very thankful to all his friends on campus who believed in him and worked to help accomplish his goals. He especially wanted to thank Jason Sheehy for running his campaign in his absence.

Laura Bartlett will be vice president for next year. Her first reaction to winning was excitement and nervousness. "I knew that the S.A. may not be able to accomplish all of the goals they set for themselves next year, but she believes they will have the opportunity to start some projects around campus. He said he does not want the same people doing everything all the time. "I would like to provide more opportunities for people to come out of their shells," he said. Sorrell was very thankful to all his friends on campus who believed in him and worked to help accomplish his goals. He especially wanted to thank Jason Sheehy for running his campaign in his absence.

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Brad Wallace was elected secretary, and his reaction was much like Bartlett's. He said he is excited about the possibilities. He also said he is excited about working with the S.A. team. Wallace said he hopes to work with the other offices - treasurer and the representatives - to become more involved. He would like them to be more visible, and to start some projects among themselves. Wallace said that he would like to see all of the S.A. officers involved in suggesting ideas for projects. April Fears will be the '95-'96 S.A. treasurer. Fears said she was very surprised at the outcome of the election because she was not sure she had a chance to win. Fears was a write-in candidate and didn't know how many people were running against her. She feels a personal challenge as treasurer will be to do her very best at whatever will be asked of her. She said she is looking forward to a great year.

The rest of the election winners were Becki Folkerts as senior women's representative, Wes Vernon as senior men's representative, Cara Wilson as junior representative, Anna Lisa Gearhart as sophomore women's representative and Jason Fulmer as sophomore men's representative.

There was a run-off for junior men's representative, which ended in a tie between Jeff Baker and Jim Miller. Each of these men will have the opportunity to serve for one semester. Baker will serve during first semester, and Miller will serve second semester. This split in the responsibilities of junior representatives is a first for Harding's S.A.

"I am impressed with the quality of people that have been selected to serve on the S.A.," President Nathan Mellor said. "Each S.A. has a different personality that helps highlight the talents of the students, and I have full confidence in the incoming S.A.'s ability to serve."

"The beauty of her voice is exceeded only by the depths of her Christian character." Dr. Arthur Shearin presents Christine Tucker with the academic award for the music department. Nineteen students received academic awards in chapel on Wednesday. Photo by Jason Burt.

1994-95 Academic Awards

- Scott Rains, Art
- Catherine Weber, Behavioral Sciences
- Richard Goffy Hill, Bible
- Keith Grans, Biology
- Michael Brooks, Business
- Forest Doddington, Communication
- Matthew K. Smith, Computer Science
- Todd Denoyer, Elementary Education
- Paul Mann, Secondary Education
- Tressa Cole, Special Education
- Rebecca Helms, Graduate School
- Carie Brown, English and Mathematics
- Carolyn Ebsuce, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Deryl Rodgers, Foreign Languages
- Jason E. Jewell, History
- Garram Cooper, Kinesiology
- Christine Tucker, Music
- Jessica Beltzer, Nursing
- Will Davenport, Physical Sciences

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Searcy
Bisons win double-header to wind up season

by Allison VandeGevel
Bison staff writer

The Bison baseball squad ended their season on a good note, claiming a 6-2, 11-2 double-header victory over the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) on Monday.

"The guys came out with a good attitude and kept it through both games. That was the best performance the team's had all year as far as I'm concerned," graduate assistant Shane Fullerton said.

Sophomore pitcher Tim Lacefield picked up the victory in the opening game. Lacefield struck out 13 Bollweevils and walked none. "Tim had what I believe was his best game of the season," Fullerton said.

Backing up Lacefield's winning pitching was a strong offense. Three men batted over the .500 mark. Leadoff batter Daryl Johnson hit .600, claiming two singles and a double. Freshmen Jeremy Pharr and Ryan Tharp added a pair of singles each.

Senior Kevin Burton was the winning pitcher during the Bisons' second game with UAM. He claimed four strike-outs and only one walk.

Both teams started off slow, with no scoring done until the third inning. But it was Bison bats that were cracking in the fourth inning. Senior outfielder Wade Wilson sent one over the fence to put Harding up 4-0. UAM's Grayson tried to retaliate in the same inning by hitting the second home run of the day, but it was no use for the Weevils. Burton's pitching and the Bison defense kept UAM's scoring down to a bare minimum, while the Bison sluggers took control.

The season came to a close on Wednesday. UAM's victory over Lyon College gave the Bisons a fifth-place ranking in the AIC conference, with a 15-13 record.

With the whole team hitting over a .300 average, Fullerton believed hitting was the key to this season's finish. Two players, Daryl Johnson and Kevin Burton, were hitting in the .400 range.

At the beginning of the season, Coach Jess Bucy had expressed concern over the team's youth and inexperience. "We never expected to even be in the position we were in [by barely edged out of conference play by UAM]," Fullerton said.

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  - Portland at Phoenix
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  - L.A. Lakers at Seattle
  - Mayo League Baseball (Sunday's games)
  - Baltimore at Minnesota
  - Chicago White Sox at Boston
  - Cleveland at Texas
  - Atlanta at Los Angeles
  - Florida at San Francisco
  - NHL Games
  - Anaheim at Los Angeles
  - Pittsburgh at Boston
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**All-Sports Trophy up for grabs**

by Jill Shirley
Bison staff writer

A tennis ball is a golf ball is a baseball. So it is when the All-Timers try to determine which college will be the recipient of the All-Sports Trophy, given to the school who excels in sports participation.

Harding is a serious contender with their success in all of their sports. However, as always, it has come down to the very end of the year, and there is no clear winner. All four of Harding's spring sports are at or near the top of the conference, but nothing is certain. This year's tennis teams claim the two best records in Harding history. Both teams, as of yet, are ranked second in the conference. The men are 12th in the nation with a 21-4 season record. They are waiting on an at-large bid for the national tournament in hopes of continuing their winning season.

The women were all alone in first place in the conference for a while. But a player on the team had dropped below 12 credit hours in school, which forced the team to forfeit those matches in which she had played, and the women lapsed into second place. They are still ranked 11th in the nation, holding a 20-3 season record. The women, like the men, are hoping for an at-large bid to the national tournament. "These are the all-time best two tennis teams we've had," Garth Elliott said.

Harding's baseball team seems to be holding on to a middle position in the conference. They swept a double header against the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) last week. UAM still has three more games to play, and these games are critical, not only to their own standing in the conference, but to Harding's standing, as well. The team is hoping for a fourth place finish, although a fifth place one is possible. Harding has games against Ouachita Baptist and Lyon College left to play.

The golf team is presently in second place. However, as they are finishing the AIC tournament, they have a chance to tie for the championship. Either way, the golf team, especially Brad Williams, will contribute much to the All-Sports contest. Williams has a chance to be the top golfer in the conference. If Williams wins, he will go to the national NCAA golf tournament.

The track teams' final standings are the most difficult to predict. Both the men and women have been competing and placing well in their meets thus far. But their standings in the previous track meets will have no consequence in the conference outcome. All placements will be determined by the conference track meet.

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**Setting up for the backboard**

Arturo Rodriguez, the Bison's number one player, concentrates as he prepares to return a shot. Photo by Jason Burt.

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