Ujima observes special month; renews awareness of social issues

by Heather Henson
Bison staff writer

As the student body begins to focus on Black History month, Ujima turns its focus to increasing campus awareness.

Ujima is Swahili for "collective works and responsibilities." It is a cultural organization focusing on African Americans and bringing their culture here to help others relate," Kym Brown, Ujima's mediator, said.

The month of February is the club's most active period. This month they will host a library exhibit that will contain mini-biographies of well-known African Americans. The exhibit will include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Langston Hughes and John Coltrane, and it will be on display throughout the month.

On Feb. 16, the club will present a chapel program dealing with African American men and women who have contributed to the Church of Christ. This program will mark the beginning of Gospel Explosion, which is held Feb. 16-18. Several area churches of Christ, including Dixie and McAllen, will be singing and leading discussions throughout the weekend. Gospel singing groups are scheduled to perform Friday, Feb. 16, and the Albert O'Neil Jubilee Singers will perform Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Ujima's members have formed a multi-racial choir of their own, known as Higher Degree. This group travels to churches all over Arkansas and Memphis to perform for gospel meetings during the school year, according to Brown.

Ujima sponsors several service projects each semester. Brown said that this spring they plan to take a group of children to the Civil Rights museum in Memphis, and they will continue to run the concession stand during Bison basketball games to raise money. The club has biweekly meetings, open to all students. Each meeting begins with a devotional, and then topics dealing with African Americans are discussed.

"The club's focus is to get us closer to God and His purpose for us. If we lose that focus, everything else is irrelevant," club historian Jumal Trice said.

Seven scholars awarded study-abroad expenses

by Holly Latimer
Bison staff writer

More doors have been opened for students to attend international programs in the future years, thanks to a donation by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. Seven students have been awarded scholarships to cover travel expenses abroad: Carol Birth, Briana Valentine, Jennifer Woody, Sallie Marie Lemmings, Jay Salazar, Lisa Salazar and Ron Sisson.

These scholarships were awarded on the basis of need, academic abilities, references, an interview and application questions. The applicants must have already qualified to receive Pell grants. They also had to submit three letters of reference, one each from their Bible teacher, academic adviser and dorm supervisor. "These scholarships provide the opportunity for international study that wouldn't be available otherwise," Dr. Don Shackleford said.

Winners were chosen by a three-person independent committee. The committee evaluated the information submitted by the students and weighted it. "They tried to be as fair as possible. Any one of the students had need, but they had to pick those with the highest need," Shackleford said.

Scholarship winner Jennifer Woody said that winning the scholarship enables her to attend Harding University in Florence in the spring of 1997. Without the scholarship, Woody said that she still would have been able to go, but not without a lot of hard work. She was very pleased at receiving the scholarship and happy for what it would do for others as well as herself. "I'm really glad that they developed a scholarship for those who want to travel. I'm really lucky I get to go, but this makes it even better." The Reynolds Scholarship program will provide travel expenses for six or seven students each year for three years. It started with a $50,000 donation by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Last year, the chairman of the Foundation, Fred Smith, visited the campus as a guest of Jack Stephens, founder of the Stephens scholarship program, according to Dr. Jim Carr, executive vice president. Smith was impressed with what he saw and wanted to do something to help the university. Stephens introduced Smith to his niece, Betty Ulrey, who told him about the Hard program in England, which she had just attended. Smith and the board at the Foundation then decided to give the money to provide travel for students with great financial need who wanted to attend the international programs.

Two of the awardees for fall are Stephens scholarship winners.
Ode to a hyped world

by Michael Carter

My father recently told me about an article that was published in Reader's Digest. Part of the article contained the results of a survey designed to discover what kind of individuals favor paying a federal flat tax. The results give the impression that all walks of life want a flat tax.

Perhaps those surveyed truly reflect the sentiment of the majority of Americans, a sentiment based on the individuals and large companies. That all walks of life want a flat tax. They would pay at least 15 percent of their yearly income, based on the flat tax, and may be tempted to give back to find new jobs. If that were to happen, the tax base would shrink, and the flat tax would increase.

First, consider the small wage earners, those who make less than $25,000 a year. Many of us college students will soon fit into that category! Those wage earners, who probably do not have any deductions to file, now give 10 percent of their income to the federal government each year. With the flat tax, they would pay at least 15 percent of their yearly income, based on the figures that Washington is considering. Combine that figure with a state tax, a sales tax and local taxes, and the backs of small wage earners would break. Even if they could file for one or two deductions, they would still find it nearly impossible to survive. What about the working poor and those wage earners? Many of our parents fit into this category. They would not escape from danger either. There is talk from Washington that many, if not all, of the deductions that moderate wage earners count on will be eliminated. There goes their charitable deductions and other forms of tax relief. Their jobs may also be jeopardized. Presently, investment capital that funnels back into respective companies is deductible. If company owners and investors are prevented from deducting their investment capital as a result of flat tax, they lose their incentive to expand their companies. If companies do not grow, they become stagnant and may eventually die.

However, those in charge of companies would probably not let that happen if they could help it; instead, they would pack their bags and move, probably to a different country where taxes are not so burdensome, leaving their charge of companies behind to find new jobs. If that were to happen, the tax base would shrink, which means the flat tax would increase to cover the loss of tax revenue.

What about the large wage earners? They would still be rich even after paying the flat tax, and may be tempted to give back to find new jobs. If that were to happen, the tax base would shrink, which means the flat tax would increase to cover the loss of tax revenue.

Taxpayers who call for help get correct answers only 63 percent of the time," he said. "The current system's complexities impose $100 billion in compliance costs on U.S. taxpayers. Taxpayers devote an estimated 5.4 billion hours to their tax returns."

The flat tax offers a solution to all this complexity. The greatest virtue of the flat tax is its simplicity, according to ABC journalist David Brinkley.

"Every tax we have in America, except the income tax, is a tax on people's behavior. To eliminate taxes on sales, gasoline, real estate, airline tickets, sales of houses—flat taxes every one, the same price to all regardless of personal wealth or lack of it..." he said. "All a taxpayer needs to know at year's end is his total income for the year, and multiply it by some percentage... and the job is done."

Flat tax forms could be postcard size, completed by CEO's or a teen-ager flipping burgers, according to Simon. "The Internal Revenue Service provides these three volumes of 1704 pages in order to answer questions people most frequently ask. Under anyone's definition, our tax system is complex. Presidential contender Steve Forbes suggests that the flat tax offers a simpler system that works. If people are treated fairly, do away with privileges for special interest groups and encourage simplicity. Simplicity is needed, according to William E. Simon, former U.S. Treasury secretary. "Even the IRS can't get the facts straight."

Taxpayers who call for help get correct answers only 63 percent of the time," he said. "What I have found is that, in a hyped world, there is only one answer for the April 15th nightmare. "I have consulted, read, or talked with one Washington tax authority after another..." he said. "What I have found is that only one idea for tax reform comes anywhere close to genuinely wide acceptance by the taxpayers, and that is the flat tax."

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Ode to a hyped world

by Lois Voyles

In case you have any questions about taxes, you can go to the library and peruse three books on the "tax rack." The Internal Revenue Service provides these three volumes of 1704 pages in order to answer questions people most frequently ask.

Facing issues

Flatten the tax, or leave it alone?

by Michael Carter

We are told that Christ was killed for us, that his death has washed out our sins, and that by dying he disabled death itself. That is the formula. That is Christianity. That is what has to be believed.

-C.S. Lewis

INSPIRATION et cetera

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Inspiration: Selected by Beth Smith
Bison copy editor

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Inspiration: Selected by Beth Smith
Bison copy editor
I found myself making the difficult choice between the Far East salad and the beef fajitas. I settled on fajitas, and Kent chose homemade lasagna with a side of fresh vegetables, both priced at around $9.

The service was impeccable. Though we were both drinking iced tea, our waitress never let the glass approach empty, and she was even able to keep the raspberry tea I was having straight from the bottle. Our tea was drinkable, though quite expensive. As I sat waiting for my dinner, I pondered over the dessert menu, which was extensive. There were several specialty coffee drinks to choose from, as well as white chocolate bread pudding with whiskey butter sauce, Donna's sour cream apple dumpling and several other choices not as traditional.

Dinner arrived and the portions were extremely large. I was disappointed that the fajitas were not served with guacamole, but that small detail couldn't ruin my tremendous meal. Kent found favor in the lasagna, though the garlic toast was quite appealing. As I sat waiting for my dinner, I pondered over the dessert menu, which was extensive. There were several specialty coffee drinks to choose from, as well as white chocolate bread pudding with whiskey butter sauce, Donna's sour cream apple dumpling and several other choices not as traditional.

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Newest major in art facilitates child therapy

by Brian Hendricks
Bison staff writer

Students can combine a love for art and a desire to serve by earning an undergraduate degree in art therapy, the art department's newest major. "I want to work with children with special needs," said Karen Karuth, an art therapy major. "This major allows me to do the things I love, helping people and doing art," she said.

"Art is a symbolic language and it is much easier for a child to express themselves through art than it is for this same child to go through regular therapy," said Faye Doran, art professor and advisor for students who desire to major in art therapy. "There is a certain kind of honesty found in a child's art work," she said.

Rachel Freeman, a sophomore art therapy major from Benton, Ark., said, "I have always been very talented in art and I really enjoyed my first psychology class. That is why I have chosen to be in the art therapy program, but this major seems to be growing. According to Doran, Harding has four alumni who major in art therapy. "There are not really any art therapy classes, so most of

the people who are involved in the art therapy major have to go through a process of reading and discovery on their own," Karuth said.

Despite the growth of the field, the prospect is grim for people who are interested in opening their own private practice because most of the jobs are available in children's hospitals, infirmaries and special education programs. "Art therapy is so new that most people will have to create their own jobs and convince their prospective employers that they are qualified," Karuth said.

The pay scale in Arkansas is comparable to the pay of teachers and people in other forms of counseling. About one-third of the states in the United States have a specific license for art therapy, but Arkansas does not, according to Karuth. "No other undergraduate schools in Arkansas offer the art therapy major," Doran said.

The history of art therapy goes back about 25 years, when the National Organization of Art Therapists was formed. The continued development of that history, though apparently a continuous one, will be dependent upon the ingenuity and effectiveness of its current practice.

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Beat of musical success pound

Dave Beyers Band is "Breaking the Mold"
Band to tour, promote new album

by Jeff Krinks
Bison staff writer

The Harding-based folk/rock group, Dave Beyers Band, is preparing itself for one of the biggest undertakings in its history - a spring break tour to promote its new album, "Breaking the Mold." Band members Dave Beyers, Nate Lucas, Misty McDowell, Stacey Randolph, Brian Scott, Shelby Smith, Pete Traicik, Natasha Tomasi and David White will be performing at several schools in Indiana, including Vincennes University and Taylor University.

"Breaking the Mold" is an album of "live" material recorded at last semester's concert in the Benson Auditorium. The new CD will go on sale March 6. "It's neat to be at Harding because it's in the South, and a lot more musical doors are open. Down here, we've got more time to grow as a band," Beyers said.

Beyers is no stranger to the stage. He has been writing and performing his own music since his mother gave him a guitar for high school graduation. His band has played at the Grecian Grill, Cafe on the Creek, the Benson Auditorium and numerous clubs across the Midwest.

Beyers, a junior elementary education major, is from Bedford, Ind. The first instrument he played was the tuba. In high school band, he said that he "kind of thought on the bass." In his band, he plays guitar and sings.

He plans on "hitting the big-time." He wants to use his future fame and fortune for a specific purpose - to help children. "I want to go around the world and start clinics for handicapped children, especially the deaf and blind. I also want to work with inner city kids," he said.

He said he hopes that once he achieves the status of a popular musician, he will be able to gain more support for his cause. Beyers gives God the credit for his musical abilities. "God gave me the talent, and he gave me the talent for a reason, it's my responsibility to use it to spread the Word," he said. He tried to make the band members understand that they need to be good Christian examples.

He spends more than 60 hours a week on his music, struggling with the details like a true perfectionist. "I usually write two songs a week. Sometimes I get really irritated with myself over little things," he said.

The decision to make music his career was not easy, according to Beyers. "If I never tried [recording music], I would grow old saying, 'What if, what if.'"

That career plan prompted him to record a demo CD, entitled "Doe." He sold the CD at concerts, and he said that it would serve as a backstage pass at future concerts.

In high school, Beyers listened to groups like INXS and U2, and his sound is nothing like them. His main musical influences now are James Taylor and Sting.

In the next year, Beyers said he would like to "go national." He plans on hiring a manager to promote the band on a larger scale.

He said there are still a few open dates on the spring break tour, and he is looking for places to fill them.

Joan Alexander, David Shedd, Bob Bell and Aaron Brister perform as The Screaming Mimes [top]. Photo from album cover. Dave Beyers rocks the Grecian Grill [bottom left]. Photo by Heather Allison. The Dave Beyers Band [right]. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.
Audiences scream for Mimes’ first album

CD hits the market, well-received

by Diana King
Bison staff writer

With their first CD on the market, the Screaming Mimes have their foot in the door leading to greater opportunities in the music world.

“We’re really happy about the CD,” said Isaac Alexander, guitarist and lead singer for the band. “It has been selling very well in the places we have given performances.”

The Screaming Mimes originated in Searcy four years ago when a group of high school students decided to combine their musical talents and start the band. As they continued to play together, the four young men developed their own style.

Their music is a mixture of rock, funk and soul, according to Alexander. “We have fun playing that type of music, and it really appeals to the audience,” he said. Sopranoist David Johnson, who has been following the band’s success since 1994, said he liked the mixture of styles in their music.

Although Alexander said that the Screaming Mimes consider themselves a secular band, fans noticed that their texts were different from those of other secular groups. “I really like listening to them because a lot of their texts have good values,” Johnson said. “We’re all Christians,” Alexander explained, “and we just can’t help incorporating some of those values into our music.”

Carried by West Hall Records, their CD, which came out in January, is a major achievement for the Screaming Mimes, according to Alexander. “We were really fortunate to know Brian Bequette who helped us so much getting everything done,” he said. Bequette, a ’94 graduate of Harding, acted as producer and engineer in the recording process. “When I was a student at Harding, I played in a band and eventually opened a recording studio,” Bequette said. Bequette has known the Screaming Mimes for three years. “I became interested in them because I enjoyed listening to their music and really liked the atmosphere at their performances,” he said.

When the group expressed interest in recording an album, Bequette was willing to oversee the project. “Brian came to Searcy and recorded eight of the 11 tracks,” Alexander said. The remaining three tracks were recorded by Cedar Crest Records in Mountain View, Ark.

Since the Screaming Mimes graduated from high school, getting together for recordings and performances has not always been an easy task, according to Alexander. While he has stayed in Searcy and is a student at Harding now, the other band members are attending various other schools in Fayetteville, Ark., Paragould, Ark. and Memphis, Tenn.

“Because we live so far away from each other we never practice except on the day before performances,” Alexander said.

In addition, Rob Bell, one of the Screaming Mimes, plays basketball for Rhodes College, which the band must take into consideration when planning. “I’m glad we started off in high school and had a chance to become close friends before going off to college,” Alexander said.

The Screaming Mimes have no definite plans for the future, however, they plan to make more recordings, Alexander said. “We will probably start recording another album by the end of the year.” Bequette sees possibilities for the band if they decide to pursue careers in the music business. “All of them are very talented young men, and it would definitely be possible for them to do more recordings in the future,” he said.

As for the near future, the Screaming Mimes have a possible concert in Searcy planned for this month.
Public relations club chartered

by Christina Weber
Bison staff writer

Harding will soon offer a national professional organization for students interested in public relations. The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is an affiliate of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). PRSSA is the world's largest organization of public relations professionals, and the only one granting accreditation to practitioners.

Harding had a PRSSA chapter that was, in fact, the state's largest. Five years ago, however, it dissolved due to lack of interest. Recently, students began to show interest in reestablishing the chapter.

Before a charter will be granted, numerous requirements must be met. The first is finding a sponsor who is a full-time faculty member and a member of PRSA. Scott Stewart, a 1989 graduate and member of the communication faculty, agreed to be the new sponsor.

Stewart will be assisted by Phillip Tucker, a 1990 graduate of Harding. Tucker is a writer and editor for Harding's Public Relations Office, and he is the secretary for the state PRSA chapter.

For a charter, the PRSSA also requires that at least 10 students join, eight of whom must be at or below the junior level. The association is open to all students who are interested in public relations and have plans to take a public relations course.

The charter must also be sponsored by a PRSA chapter. The president and four additional members of this chapter must then sign the charter. The Little Rock chapter has agreed to be Harding's sponsor.

Once all of these requirements are met, the charter is submitted for approval by nine different committees. Many activities could be planned, including tours of public relations firms, have guest speakers, conduct forums offering information on interviewing and job seeking, and attend PRSA's national conference. The group could also take part in PRSA's national case competitions.

Membership in this professional organization offers many advantages to Harding's students. PRSSA members, upon graduation, receive automatic membership in PRSA, which can lead to accreditation as a public relations professional. Members have access to connections for internships and jobs, and they receive a subscription to PR Tactics, PRSA's national newspaper for members. PRSSA is recognized as the profession's leading organization for students.

“I think we need PRSSA,” Tucker said. “Harding needs a professional organization strictly for public relations students. I think it will open a lot of doors for opportunities for the students, and in the public relations work world, membership in PRSA is considered very important.”

Harding already has several other national professional organizations for its students. Bed Rock Studios (student chapter of the American Center for Design), the American Marketing Association and the Arkansas Home Economics Association are just a few of the chapters that are already established on campus.

Terri Rice, last year's sponsor for the Arkansas Home Economics Association, said that she thinks membership in these organizations is important because students can hear speakers, make contacts, network and see their chosen profession from a fresh point of view.
Boll Weevils shock Bisons with sweep

by Bart Blaengame
Bison Sports Editor

Rolling into the game with a 17-2 record and a No. 21 NAIA ranking, the Harding Lady Bisons were looking to make Monticello just another step on the way to the national tournament. But behind the efforts of Brenda Jones, the UAM Cotton Blossoms pulled off the upset, toppling Harding 91-77 Monday night at Steelman Fieldhouse.

Jones knocked down 26 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help move UAM to 10-4 on the season. Monica Davis scored 18 points for the Cotton Blossoms and Gulf South Conference rebound leader Carol Hartington scored 15 points and had 15 rebounds. Angie Fouts again led Harding with 25 points and also collected nine rebounds. Johnnie Reece added 15 points and Marion Williams had 13. Jason Cooper led Harding with 29 points and eight rebounds. Cliff Miller went for 20 points, grabbed six boards and dished four assists.

UAM sealed the Bisons in the first half of the game, shooting 58 percent from the floor on 22 of 38 attempts. Harding was forced to play catch-up and was able to connect on 18 of 34 attempts but still fell behind 51-40 by halftime.

The Boll Weevils did not cool off much in the second half as UAM made 17 of 30 attempts for 57 percent. The Bisons could only find the back of the rim and a 16-point defeat.

The Bisons will play again on Monday night against Drake College. The game will start 20 minutes after the Lady Bison game.

Before the losses, both Harding and UAM were poised for a regional berth. According to the Southwest Region polls, both the Bisons and Lady Bisons would host home playoff games if the playoffs started now. UAM's division I was Feb. 29 and March 5. Playoff dates for the women are Feb. 28, March 2 and March 6.

All games are scheduled to be played at the home court of the highest team. Conference winners receive an automatic berth.

HU stacks up against national foes

from staff reports

Harding standout forward Angie Fouts is No. 7 in free-throw shooting and No. 11 in scoring in the latest National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics statistics.

Fouts has converted 98 of 115 free throws for 85.2 percent. She is also averaging 22.5 points per game.

As a team, the Lady Bisons are fourth in three-point shooting at 30.8 percent, and eighth in scoring and free-throw shooting at 61.5 points per game and 73.6 percent, respectively.

The Harding University track team took on some serious national competition last week at an Indoor Meet in Fayetteville and came away feeling pretty good about themselves.

The Bisons won the men's distance medley with a first-place time of 10:08.79, just beating out Southern Methodist University who came in at 10:10.

Individual honors went out to Bison Simon Sawa who placed fourth in the 3000-meter run with a time of 8:17.88. Erica Harris also did well for the Lady Bisons. Harris ran a 2:57.47 in the 800-meter run to put her just .23 off of the city record.


What? Utah’s star touted as “dirty”

• Utah guard John Stockton is the league’s most protected player by officials and in one of the district, at least that’s what some NBA players say.

"Whatever he can get away with, he does," Seattle SuperSonics guard Nate McMillan said. "As soon as you retaliate, the officials see it." McMillan said Utah "looks like they’re schoolboys, but they’re probably one of the dirtiest teams in the league."

Classy Olajuwon a gracious guest

• Houston Rocket All-Star center Hakeem Olajuwon is truly a class act, both on and off the court.

Although voted the starting center for the West in the All-Star Game at San Antonio, Olajuwon offered the starting nod to rival David Robinson, second in the balloting. "He deserves it. He’s at home. He’s the host. It should be an acknowledgment of his greatness."

"Maybe we can both start...I’ll play forward."

Sickly Golden St. finally healthy

• When the Golden State Warriors had no injuries to report last Thursday at Milwaukee, it marked a milestone.

It was the first time Golden State was injury-free since Dec. 27, 1991, when they shut out a four-game series against the Lakers. The Warriors led the NBA in games missed because of injury or illness in the 1992-93 and 1994-95 seasons.

AP Basketball Top 10

1. Massachusetts (18-0)
2. Kentucky (17-1)
3. Kansas (16-1)
4. Connecticut (19-1)
5. Cincinnati (16-3)
6. Villanova (16-3)
7. Utah (16-3)
8. North Carolina (15-4)
9. Georgetown (17-3)
10. Penn St. (15-1)

From the Bleachers —

After Chicago's 99-79 victory over the New York Knicks in Madison Square Garden, new Bulls Dennis Rodman displayed his usual talent for warping the obvious. "I think they should break up the team," Rodman said. "They're not the same anymore. You couldn't see their yellow streak extending tonight in the third period. They put their heads down and their tail between their legs."
**Best ever' tennis squad ready**

by Claudia Cordera
Bison staff writer

The Harding men's tennis teams began their season as the Bison faced Hendrix College yesterday. The Lady Bison played their first match against Hendrix today.

Both teams start the season with high expectations, and who could blame them?

With five of the six All-Americans players returning to an already experienced team, "both men and women ought to be the best teams we've ever had," Coach David Elliott said.

As the temperature outside remains cool, the players have changed the routine of practice, using the indoor facilities to run and keep in shape.

However, they have had decent practice in January and their level of tennis has not been affected at all, according to Elliott. Beatrix Arvizu, a senior, thinks the teams "are ready to start a good season, even though the weather has not let us play our best."

Both men's and women's tennis teams have a much more difficult schedule this year as they face highly ranked NAIA and NCAA teams they have never played before.

"The men's regional is harder than the women's since there are six high-ranked teams that we have to play against and only one team qualifies automatically," Elliott said.

With the teams ranked eighth and 11th in the nation (men and women, respectively), Elliott expects the best. Hopes are high for the teams to have a great season and qualify for the NAIA National Championship.

"We are still in an NCAA probation period, which makes us unable to play for the conference championship although we are part of the Lone Star Conference," Elliott said.

Both teams travel to their next match on Feb. 6 against Lyon College. On Friday, Feb. 9, they will travel in different directions, with the men playing Oklahoma City University and the women playing Northeast Oklahoma.

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**Bison Sports Challenge**

**NAIA/NBA games**

- Drury College at Harding (men)
- Lane College at Harding (women)
- Atlanta at Orlando
- Phoenix at Cleveland
- Chicago at LA Lakers
- Boston at Miami
- Sacramento at Detroit
- Seattle at Houston
- New York at Indiana
- Portland at Washington
- Minnesota at San Antonio
- LA Clippers at Utah
- Toronto at Golden State
- New Jersey at Vancouver
- Portland at Philadelphia
- Cleveland at Milwaukee
- Minnesota at Dallas
- Toronto at LA Clippers
- Phoenix at Washington
- San Antonio at Orlando
- Charlotte at Atlanta
- Chicago at Denver
- LA Lakers at New Jersey
- Golden State at Detroit
- New York at Sacramento
- Miami at Portland
- Portland at Dallas
- Dallas at Minnesota
- NFL Pro Bowl
- AFC vs. NFC

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Welcome, arm-chair quarterbacks!

This is a chance for you, the Harding student to battle wins and lose against the *Bison* Sports Editor and be eligible for a great prize at the same time.

Cut out the entire entry sheet and drop it in the *Bison* Sports Challenge box at the Campus Mail window before Friday at 10 p.m. HAVE FUN!

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**Phone**

**Box #**

**Enter entire sheet**

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**Tales from the BENCH**

Is Magic's comeback worth the price?

by Bart Hlasengame
Bison Sports Editor

Somebody call Ted Turner and get him to stop beamsnting "Rocky" reruns into the house of Earvin Johnson.

The man known simply as "Magic" has lost his once-wonderful wand and found an empty popcorn box and his reputation is hiatus from the game he used to orchestrate from his perch as one of the NBA's greatest players.

Who could forget his NBA Finals MVP performance as a rookie, his position as general of the Los Angeles Lakers' "short-hair" squad, his legendary battles with Larry Bird, his clashes with Hakeem Olajuwon? Apparently, it is Magic himself who cannot be past the forest and fade gracefully into NBA history.

And so, Magic has once again crawled back into the public limelight. But this time he returns not as the basketball hero with five NBA championships, not as an HIV-positive man fighting the disease with wisdom and grace, but instead to the court as a rusty, slower, out-of-shape 36-year-old who is forced to play one-on-one with one of the biggest shadows ever—his own.

Johnson will not be quietly tucked away in the trunk of NBA legacy like his counterpart Larry Bird. Apparently, Johnson wants to see first-hand just how the game has progressed in the four years since last he saw it. And he may lose his game, but others proclaim his greatness lives on.

And that should be great, wouldn't it? Old school versus new school, Magic posting up on Antawn Hardaway, or firing off a sky-hook over Shaquille O'Neal, or maybe even leaving Grant Hill flat-footed in the wake of one of his beautiful no-look passes.

But what if the come-back to that certain level of excellence that he is so used to? What if the game isn't there anymore? What if he's merely mortal? What happens to the legend then? Kids who never got to watch him before might laugh and quietly wonder, "Who's the chubby in the short-shorts with no game? That's Magic? He doesn't even have his own commercial."

Why, Magic? Why now? It was OK the way you left, limping, but with a smile, with grace, and still on top of your game. You were the best, still are in our hearts, but not today—now not at all.

Fade away while you can, Mr. Johnson. You are a legend and it's OK.

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**Math 101**

A Simple Equation

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