Rector, Mellor initiate program to feed hungry; students to collect food from local residents

by Jamma Sheri

An average of 18,563 hungry people ask for assistance each month at one of Arkansas' seven food banks.

Tomorrow at noon, Harding students will join forces with 20 universities and seven food banks across Arkansas to battle this hunger epidemic in an effort dubbed simply, "Feed Arkansas."

Students will gather in front of the Jim Bill McInteer Center to combat hunger on a local level. "College people can get involved [in this project]," said Nathan Mellor, co-director of Feed Arkansas. "We don't have the money, but we do have time."

Students have been encouraged to get involved through chapel programs, fliers posted around campus and sign-up sheets in club mail boxes and in the hands of coordinators who have directly asked students for a commitment of a couple of their Saturday afternoon hours.

Feed Arkansas originated in the fall of 1995 when Allison Rector, co-director of the project, and Mellor served together on the Spiritual Life Committee. When it didn't fall into place immediately, they decided to put the idea on hold until a more suitable time. Although they revived the project on their own this semester, many organizations and individuals have endorsed Feed Arkansas and given the outreach a strong foundation and credibility.

"The best part of Feed Arkansas is how supportive Harding University has been," Rector said. "The students are excited, and the administration and board of trustees love the program."

The Public Relations Students Society of America (PRSSA), of which Rector is president, and the Alpha Epsilon Rho broadcast society (AERho) were involved in college recruiting and compiling and distributing media information kits.

Although most social clubs and about 500 individuals have already committed to participate, Rector urged all students to take part. "We need more than have signed up already," she said. "We need people to show up on Saturday without having signed up."

A committee of seven students and two sponsors split responsibilities for the project. Other than Mellor and Rector, those involved were Ryan Butterfield, broadcast media director; Brad Wallace, food bank coordinator; Shannon Berryhill, Jeremy Kernodle and Shelby Smith, campus involvement coordinators; and sponsors Dr. Lou Butterfield and Dr. Jack Shock. The Feed Arkansas logo was designed by Vanessa Bearden.

"It has been great to watch everybody work together to get it all done," Mellor said. "All the coordinators have made it a wonderful project to be a part of... they've really worked hard."

Berryhill said the most challenging part of campus involvement has been to get students interested. "People are more apt to stand back and say, 'Ah, someone else will do it,'" she said. "We want those people to get involved."

Yet, she said she believed that the minimal commitment would be appealing to students who, like her, want "to be involved in something other than studies."

Entergy Corporation, Wal-Mart and PRSA have all agreed to sponsor Feed Arkansas. Seventy-four Wal-Mart locations will serve as drop-off points for canned goods across the state tomorrow.

Rector said she has been pleased with the success of Feed Arkansas thus far. "I hope people will see from this project that it is good to dream big," she said. "College students in general think 'We can't make a big impact on our cities, states or country,' but we can!"

The success of Feed Arkansas this year will determine the future of the project. "We need to all get involved so our communities can see the great need that exists, even in Arkansas, and that college students are willing to help to make the situation better," Rector said.
All I ever needed to know about trash, I learned in second grade.

Stark

Insights

Remember your second grade field trip? Mine was an excursion to the Oklahoma City Zoo. It was a pretty important day for me. I screamed all the way through the snake house and I saw an ape throw up and then he... well, you know. Anyway, one of the big lessons that I learned from my second grade field trip involved my sack lunch.

I was used to leading a pretty big responsibility at home. That was a pretty big responsibility for a Zoo.

But Thursday was "Good Housekeeping" day in Searcy Hall (l.k.a. the new apartment dorm). It was my turn to take care of all the trash in my apartment. I bagged up the garbage and trekked down the hall with three large bags to the third floor trash room. Unhappily, the trash room was locked and it was necessary for me to try and pry open the locked trash room door with a large sign on it that read: "If this room is locked, please take your trash to the first floor trash room."

Hmmm. The sign on the door seemed pretty self-explanatory to me. I therefore came to the conclusion that these poor girls must have also been aware of the same day that their classmates learned to read.

To those who were creating leaning towers of pizza boxes and mountains of colorful garbage, I say: the sign on the trash room door must have been difficult to decipher. It is because I felt it my duty to educate these poor students that I have written this letter. I hope that my writing will serve as some sort of make-up learning experience for those students, who had missed that second grade lesson in trash responsibility.

I'm terribly sorry that I can't provide the puking ape experience, but I do believe that the trash room door will exhibit in theobsidian. You can see for free.

by Yvonda Fletcher
Bison staff writer

Our society today perceives public schools as a prime environment for crime, gangs, drugs and other social ills. Some schools in some parts of the country may very well be this way, but the majority of schools in the United States, the benefits of a public education far outweigh the drawbacks that cause people to make the decision to homeschool their children.

The potential for participation in a public education is that it could furnish development of childhood's social skills. During the formative years, it is imperative that children be exposed to their peers; otherwise their social growth could be impeded from the beginning. Kinder-garten is no longer the first step of the education process. Head­start programs, as well as private preschools, are necessary throughout the country because parents realize the importance of starting early.

However, the emphasis in most of these programs is teaching children how to interact with each other in the classroom setting. Developing motor skills and teaching children how to interact with each other are also stressed; but usually those skills are taught in a way that the children must interact with each other in order to complete the task.

Social interaction doesn't stop at the preschool level. Throughout elementary school, the recesses are a time for children to reflect the depth of concern for the welfare of their children - a much-needed concern in America in the 21st Century, which should only be supported by others.

by James Brook
Bison guest writer

It's no secret that the American educational system has fallen into an alarming morass laden with double-pocked race-hut syrup sandwich (that was during my 1-lunch, and after I ate the food in it, I was supposed to return to the school bus with all of my trash. This meant keeping up with the ziplock baggies, my juicebox and my Cheetos empty Cheetos sack, the empty juice box and the plastic wrap that held my cookies. That was a pretty big responsibility for a Zoo.

And syrup sandwich (that was during my 1-lunch, and after I ate the food in it, I was supposed to return to the school bus with all of my trash. This meant keeping up with the ziplock baggies, my juicebox and my Cheetos empty Cheetos sack, the empty juice box and the plastic wrap that held my cookies. That was a pretty big responsibility for a Zoo.

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Student Surveys

We asked 100 students what they thought the most annoying element of the 1996 elections was. The survey says:

- A: worthless candidates (19 votes)
- B: radio & t.v. advertisements (67 votes)
- C: politics in general (14 votes)

Historical Happenings

Nov. 8, 1656 was the birthdate of Edmund Halley. Halley observed the great comet of 1682 (now named for him) and predicted its return in 1758. Edmund Halley's memory is kept alive by the once-every-generation appearance of Halley's Comet. The average time between the comet's appearances is 76 years. It is next expected in 2061.

Nov. 8, 1889 marks the day on which Montana became the 41st state of the union.

Nov. 8, 1900 was the birthdate of Margaret Mitchell, an American novelist who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for her only book, Gone with the Wind.

Nov. 8, 1922 was the birthdate of Christian Neethling Barnard, the South African surgeon who performed the first known human heart transplant in 1967. Today is Barnard's 74th birthday.

Creative Talents

An ugliness, a disfigurement
by Jennifer Thweatt

An ugliness, a disfigurement
Made more obscure when considered
against the purity
which was meant
To remain an eternity.

And life, the constant dance
Shifting from one foot to the other
To keep your right profile to the audience
And the other players
Until finally chance
plays you false, so choose another
tactic to hide
A scarf artistically draped
And make-up artfully applied
All the time a more difficult task
And everpresent agony
Of what do they see
When all that must be done
Is surrender
Go show yourself to The priest, my son
Just ask
Then take up thy bed, and walk.

Editor's Note:
This space is being reserved for student submissions to the Bison each week. To be considered for publication, send your letter, poem or pencil drawing to Box 1192 two weeks before publication date. All submissions must include the signature and phone number of the creator.
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'Run for their Lives' to aid Kenyan school

by Leigh Brannan
Bison staff writer

More than $1,000 was raised by 93 participants in the Run For Their Lives Race for the Kenyan Christian School in Africa last Thursday. Abe Kirwa, a Kenyan himself and a student at Harding, explained that there are many Kenyans who want to attend the school to receive a Christian education. The money raised from this effort will benefit them by enhancing their experience through additional educational equipment.

The 93 people participated in the race by running, walking or biking. They started on their way after being dismissed by S.A. President Zach Steed at the beginning of chapel.

Phil Freeman, a senior from Searcy, was the first to finish the running division.

"It was good to get out and see everyone running," he said. President David Burks participated in the running race as well. After completing the race, the only word he found to describe his condition was "tired." Commenting on his pace, he said, "You can't get much slower than that!"

However, Amy Neely, a junior runner from Ohio, had a different story. She remembered that Nathan Mellor, assistant to the president, began the race with Burks but had to stop and catch his breath while Burks forged ahead. Soon Burks caught up with Neely and had a good bit of speed as she had to make every effort to keep up with him.

"It was really neat to cross the finish line with Dr. Burks and see all the people cheering," Neely said.

Jennifer James, a senior from Searcy, was the first walker to finish the race.

"I just walked along and talked with Brenda Osborne, and we had a good time. It was fun," James said.

Chuck Pappas was the winner of the bike race. For him, the excursion was a good time for thinking, exercising, and getting extra credit in Dr. Bob Reely's class while getting out of chapel.

"The entrance fee of $15 may sound like a lot, but it really goes so far to get an education for people who might not get a chance," Pappas said. He said the race helped him remember and be thankful for the education that he sometimes takes for granted here at Harding.

Christy Powell, a junior from California, was the first female who finished the bike race. For her, it was a time of concentration as well, but of a different sort. "I was trying to keep up with the guy in front of me! The path was not marked at every turn, and I was afraid I would get lost," she said.

The program was organized by S.A. President Zach Steed and sophomores Allison Black and Ashley Black. Sophomore volunteer Susie Smith was highly complimentary of the Black sisters' work on this project. "They did an awesome job getting all this together," she said.

Participants received "Run For Their Lives" T-shirts at the completion of the race.

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Class of '66

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Who's Who

Congratulations to the following students who will appear in the 1997 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Shelley Denise Allison
Jeffrey Ryan Baker
Amanda Dean Bawcom
Troy David Bendickson
Rebekah Marie Black
Kyla James Brice
Kristy Karen Brown
Michelle Antonette Browne
Samuel Ryan Butterfield
Kendra Lyn Cherl
Tammy Lynn Clark
Mitchell Allen Coston
Amy Rebecca Cothran
Bobbie Jaye Cox
Tiffany Lyn Dawson
Benjamin Stewart Diles
Angela Dawn Dugger
Yvette Y. Ellis
Jeffrey Brian Hammond
Jana Carol Hendrix
Cindy Herman
Carlos Donati Hernandez
James David Hobby, Jr.
Catherine Denise Hoover
John Jordan House
Nathaniel Israel
Eareline Jackson
Heather Amanda James
Jennifer Elizabeth James
Kent Michael Jobe
Bert Lawrence Johnson
Anna Maurine Jones
Sara Courtney Kirkpatrick
Lynda Renee Leavelle
Jennifer Beth Long
Sara Elizabeth Lowery
Elisabeth Amber Luallen
Gloria Annette Matthews
Philip Lee McKinney, II
Laura Kristen Meredith
Steven Mikeh Parkhurst
Clarice Renee Perkins
Brandon Brady Procell
Allison Whitney Rector
Angela Louise Scholl
Jennifer Lynn Silva
Keith Holland Smith
Shelby Allen Smith
Andrea G. Stark
Kevin Walter Stewart
Jennifer Leigh Strickland
Joseph Scott Thibodeaux
Allison Rose Travis
Christopher Bruce Turney
Daniel Velasco
Loris Elizabeth Voyles
Jennifer Claire Walker
Brian Keith Watts
Rachel Elizabeth Welch
Jana Lynn White
Carla Dawn Wilson
Heather Marie Wilson
Joseph Jeremy Winters
Katherine Deanne Wright

Seniors Chuck Pappas and Takeo Sonoi lead the bikers to the finish line and senior Jennifer James finishes first in the walking division of "Run for their Lives." Participants raised more than $1000 for Kenyan Christian School. Photos by Kami Wentz.
The Student Association will host its annual Sadie Hawkins week starting Monday, Nov. 11 and will continue all week. S.A. members described the week as "a great opportunity for all women on campus." That opportunity includes several activities planned by the S.A. to promote Harding women to ask out Harding men for a date.

Monday, the play, "Beauty and the Beast," will show in the Benson at 7 p.m. Tuesday, students will receive the chance to see how the other gender lives during Open House. The men's Open House begins at 6:30 p.m. and lasts until 8 p.m. The women's open house will then begin at 8:30 p.m. and will end at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, women are urged to ask a guy to go to Peak of the Week, which begins at its normal time of 5:30 p.m.

Thursday will mark the debut of the theater department's one-act plays. "Cupid's Bow" and "Why Do We Laugh" show at 7 p.m. in the Little Theater on the second floor of Administration Building. Admissions is $2. The plays will show again on Friday at 7 p.m. while the movie "Phantom" plays in the Benson at 7 p.m. Saturday night, fans of Indiana Jones, a.k.a. Harrison Ford, will be delighted with the double feature of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," starting at 7 p.m. in the Benson.

The S.A. believes that Sadie Hawkins week is so full of fun and unique activities that Harding women will not refuse the opportunity of asking out the one guy they've had their eye on all semester." S.A. president Zach Steed said, "This is the chance for all the women of Harding who think they never get asked out to grab a perfect opportunity and to have a great time." Several Harding guys expressed their views of Sadie Hawkins week enthusiastically, while others said they did not really care. "It's good because they can take us out for a change!" Jon Michal Clanton said.

On the other hand, Will Jones simply said, "I don't care. It is not a big deal." Clayton Braucher did think Sadie Hawkins week is a big deal and expressed concern by saying, "It's a shame there are so many fine women on campus and only one event." From the women's point of view, Sadie Hawkins week was seen with different eyes. "Every week is Sadie Hawkins week at Harding," according to Laura Kee.

Jennifer Parker thought that Sadie Hawkins week is a good idea for women of Harding. "It's time that girls stop feeling intimidated to ask guys out," she said. Jenny Green had a unique objective: "The real trick of Sadie Hawkins week is asking a guy out and still making him pay.

The success of Sadie Hawkins week is yet to be seen; however, some Harding women may be interested in taking on the challenge to change Ray Lynn Woods' perspective on the week. Realistically Sadie Hawkins week is a good idea, but I don't know a single guy who's been asked out by a girl.

The popular heartwarming story of Beauty and the Beast will come alive on the Benson stage Monday night at 7. Presented by the American Family Theater group, the play is being sponsored co-operatively by Harding University, First National Bank, and other organizations and individuals to benefit Searcy's Holiday of Lights.

One of many shows in the theater group's "Broadway for Kids" series, the production will recall this all-time favorite story of how Beauty's love for the Beast causes her to be trapped in the castle of the Beast. Beauty's adventures at the castle then help her to discover the goodness and kindness in the Beast and lead to the magical moment where Beauty's love transforms the Beast into a man.

American Family Theater, the nation's oldest and largest theatrical company, provides top-quality, affordable musical productions. Based out of Philadelphia, the group recreates blockbuster box office hits and critically acclaimed Broadway shows. They also employ many top New York directors, choreographers, designers and scenic artists in order to achieve a sense of professionalism that they claim is "unmatched in their market." Another unique feature of American Family Theater is that all of their productions are completely original, from the music and script to all production designs. In addition, their shows attempt to blend vividly colored costumes with spectacular scenery in order to catch the attention of audience members of all ages.

The popularity of live theater has declined in the past decade, but according to Laurie Wagman, the founder of American Family Theater, the future of live theater appears bright. "Theater is one of the cornerstones of a gentle civilization, and it must be kept alive. Children are not often invited to tune in to theater, but the adults who do care will almost always tell you that they were originally turned on to it the very first time they ever went to a play. "To introduce kids at an early age to relevant, exciting quality theater, they'll come back again and again - and we are developing an audience for the future that will keep theater alive."

American Family's production of Beauty and the Beast will provide funds to assist the community's annual "Holiday of Lights," which brings an amazing quantity of Christmas lights to Searcy's streets and parks every year. Tickets for the show are on sale in the Benson Auditorium and are $5 for adults and students (free with The Pass) and $3 for children.

The American Family Theatre group's Beauty and the Beast production will begin at 7 p.m. Monday night in the Benson Auditorium.
Students practice a language that ministers to the deaf

by Kate Sugg
Bison staff writer

Any visitor to the Harding campus quickly realizes that our students communicate in several different languages. One of these is not actually spoken and is never heard but communicates as well as any of the others.

In the silent language into which we watch chapel devotionals and songs being translated almost every day: sign language. Although Harding does not currently have any students who translated almost every day: sign language. Although Harding does not currently have any students who depend completely upon the chapel to polish and improve their own skill in the language.

The last two years have seen an increased interest in dactylography (that's the fancy word for sign language) here on campus. Last year was the first time that classes were offered for credit, and many students took advantage of the new opportunity.

The dactylography club also saw an increase in membership and continued interest in the non-credit classes they offer. Linda Thompson, director of Student Support Services and faculty sponsor of the dactylography club, says that the club has been active on campus since about 1949 and that she first began learning to sign when she was a student here in the 1960's.

One of the leaders of the club is freshman nursing major Tammy Reese, who serves as president of the organization. She also volunteers her time and talent at least three times a week to translate the words we hear in chapel into the visible language that is easier for the hearing-impaired to understand.

Tammy's interest in signing began in high school. "There was a deaf girl in my youth group," she said. "I watched people translate for her and communicate with her in sign language, and I wanted to learn how to talk with her."

Tammy said she appreciates the chance to practice sign language during chapel and emphasized that it not only benefits the hearing-impaired students, but also those who are signing and the dactylography students who sit near the front of the Benson so that they can observe.

She explained that there are two ways for her to translate what she hears a speaker say, and the one she chooses can make a difference in how much she "catches."

Most hearing-impaired signers prefer to communicate using American Sign Language. However, this version of sign language is more difficult for hearing students to learn because the grammar is quite different from the English grammar that we grow up speaking. This makes English Sign Language easier for translation purposes because the translator is able to interpret exactly what she hears, word for word, rather than rearranging the sentence or attempting to translate whole concepts.

This weekend, the Dactylography Club will go to the Sylvan Hills Church of Christ in North Little Rock to participate in a worship service that the congregation holds for the deaf.

American Sign Language I and II will be offered next semester for credit, and the dactylography club will continue to offer its non-credit courses.

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Tammy Reese signs during chapel to gain valuable experience in communicating with the hearing impaired. Dactylography students learn from her language skills. Photo by Kami Wentz.

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Straight Company will appear in concert tonight at 7:30 in the Benson Auditorium.
Bisons lose close game on the road, 20-23

by Scott Goode
Bison staff writer

Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls, Texas, was the site last Saturday of Harding's most frustrating loss of the season. The Indians of Midwestern State University, winless in eight prior games, handed the Bisons a 23-20 overtime loss and ended a three-game winning streak for the black and gold.

Numerous penalties and turnovers at key points of the game left the Bison players and coaches shaking their heads wondering how they had let this one get away.

"We got what we earned today," mused Coach Randy Tribble after Indians kicker Nathan Turner booted through the game-winning field goal in overtime. Senior linebacker Christian Scudder added, "We played like we were an 8-0 team. They played like they were 0-8. We got behind and waited too long in the second half to try to come back."

The Bison offense came out sluggish on their first possession, going three plays and out, allowing Midwestern to start at the Harding 40-yard line. Eight plays later, Indian quarterback Derick Erdel suffered a fumble which was recovered and returned 15 yards by Indian linebacker Clinton Ruby, giving Midwestern their first lead.

Harding's next possession yielded better results for the herd. Following an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Midwestern, Harding's backfield of Chris Pierson and Chris Gilliam powered over the Indian defense, setting up a 23-yard touchdown run by quarterback Clay Beason, which tied the score at 7-7.

The Bisons looked like they had things going their way when Jermaine Cuffey intercepted the pass of the Indians' other quarterback, Marty Mitchell, and returned it down the sidelines for a touchdown, Harding's sixth interception return for a TD this season.

The herd could not live with prosperity on this day however, as two Bison penalties including a personal foul led to an Indian field goal and cut the Bisons' lead to 14-10. Harding extended their lead to 20-17 when Jermaine Cuffey intercepted the pass of the Indians' other quarterback, Marty Mitchell, and returned it down the sidelines for a touchdown, Harding's sixth interception return for a TD this season.

Harding's offense finally came back to life on their next possession. The herd marched 97 yards on 21 plays taking up almost 10 minutes on the clock, and reaching the two-yard line before stalling on third down. A 19-yard field goal by Thompson tied the game at 20-20 with eight seconds left.

The overtime was the first in Harding football history. This season, the NCAA instituted overtime in which each team gets the ball at their opponent's 25-yard line. Whichever team scores the most with their possession wins. The Indians had the ball first and kicked a field goal from 27 yards out. The Bisons were not so fortunate. On third down and 12, quarterback Clay Beason's desperation pass was intercepted in the end zone, giving Midwestern their first victory of the season.

A bright spot for Harding was the work of tailback Chris Pierson. The junior from Garland, Texas, rushed for 98 yards on 22 carries. This gave Pierson 1,086 yards for the season, making him the first 1,000-yard rusher for the Bisons since Alan "Snake" Dixon in 1972.

When told of the mark, Pierson responded, "I am happy about it, but I would have been happier if we had won today. Our offensive line has been really good this year and has helped me get where I need to go."

The Bisons have next week off before ending the season on Nov. 16 against NCA A Division I opponent Nicholls State in Thibodaux, La.

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**Sports Notes**

A sport junkie's dream

The number one all-sports cable network launched its third channel, ESPN3, on Friday, replacing its predecessors ESPN and ESPN 2. The new channel provides news and in-depth sports coverage and analysis. Until recently, for Arkansans, the news channel will only be picked up by cable companies in the state if the station succeeds elsewhere. So, stay tuned.

1996-97 cheerleaders announced for R-Ball

The following cheerleaders have been chosen to represent Harding for the '96-'97 basketball seasons:

Mendi Clothier
Summer Daniel
Miriam Dodson
Amber Kellers
Tori Predmore
Carla Reed
Carri Thetford
Janalyn Williams

NBA turns 50

To commemorate the NBA's 50th season, all of the league's teams will be outfitted with retro-uniforms from years past. The first retro game was between the New York and Toronto. The game was 50 years to the date of the first Basketball Association of America contest played between the New York and the Toronto Huskies.

NFL starts stretch toward the playoffs

The NFL is starting to separate the cream of its crop from those teams that won't make this playoff season. After going through spring training, pre-season and half of a regular season, each conference is offering its own early leader. The AFC gives us the Denver Broncos at 8-1, with third-quarter comeback master John Elway at the helm. The NFC has the Green Bay Packers, also at 8-1, who are led by the big fella, Brett Favre.

Sampras ends as no. 1

Pete Sampras finished as tennis' number one man for the fourth year in a row.
Bison Sports Challenge
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Last week's winner: Jeff Lucas

College Football
Michigan at Purdue
Virginia vs. Clemson
Arizona St. vs. California
Nebraska vs. Missouri
Texas Tech vs. Texas
Air Force at Army
Notre Dame at Boston College

Pro Football
Miami vs. Indianapolis
Green Bay at Kansas City
Atlanta at St. Louis
Philadelphia vs. Buffalo
Oakland at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
New England at N.Y. Jets
Houston at New Orleans
Washington vs. Arizona
Dallas at San Francisco
Denver vs. Chicago
Seattle vs. Minnesota
Baltimore at Jacksonville
Carolina vs. N.Y. Giants

Pro Hoops (Nov. 9 & 10)
Phoenix at Philadelphia
Charlotte vs. Milwaukee
Washington at Indiana
Chicago vs. Boston
Dallas vs. Miami
Houston vs. Miami
Portland at Sacramento
Denver vs. Cleveland
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers
L.A. Lakers vs. Atlanta
San Antonio at Portland
New York at Vancouver

Game of the Week - NFL (Monday)
San Diego vs. Detroit

Welcome, arm-chair quarterbacks!
This is a chance for you, the Harding student, to battle wits with The Bison Sports Editor and be eligible for a free medium pizza and four drinks at the same time. Cut out the entire entry sheet and drop it in the Bison Sports Challenge box at the Campus Mail.

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Lady Bison Tara Duncan digs a ball to setter Anna Schlientz during the Harding Invitational. The volleyballers won two of their four matches last weekend, but fell twice in Tuesday's matches. Photo by Kami Wentz.

Volleyball team enduring a rough season
by Jeremy Schopper
Bison sports writer

The volleyball team has been forced to endure a season that saw their record drop to 12-22 from last year's mark of 12-20. Going into the season, the team knew that it would be fighting an uphill battle throughout the year, with a majority of last year's team having graduated, including All-American Lori Hendricks, who is now a graduate assistant.

This year was filled by seven freshmen. "It has been a big adjustment for the team," sophomore Heather Grey said. "We are at the end of the season and we're still trying to get used to one another."

The addition of the many new players forced Coach Karyl Bailey to move some players around to new positions. As a result, the team had only one player from last year's team to play the same position this season. "I think we have played really well under the circumstances that we've had to face," Bailey said.

"They showed some real character in their work habits and attitude."

Tuesday, Nov. 5, the Bisons traveled to Henderson, Tenn., to take on Freed-Hardeman and University of Tennessee/ Martin and came out on the losing end in both matches. Against the scrappy Freed-Hardeman team, they went down in four games. "We went into the match thinking we would win, and when we got down, we were frustrated and making mistakes," Bailey said.

UT/Martin, a Division I school, was another story altogether. The Bisons played them straight up, matching them point for point, forcing overtime after the Bisons could not decide a winner. UT/Martin came out of the University of Tennessee/Martin and came out on the losing end in both matches. Against the scrappy Freed-Hardeman team, they went down in four games. "We went into the match thinking we would win, and when we got down, we were frustrated and making mistakes," Bailey said.

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2, the Bisons hosted a tournament that involved teams from Freed-Hardeman University, Cameron University, Pittsburg State University and Arkansas Tech. The lack of experience on the college level and the lack of time the Lady Bisons have played together was evident during the matches. They finished with a record of 2-3 for the weekend.

The first opponent for the Bisons was Pittsburgh State on Friday afternoon. According to Bailey, the team matched up well against them, but the Bisons disposed of them in four games.

Next, they played Arkansas Tech, who also went down in four games. "We played our best game against them; all the pieces seemed to come together," Bailey said. Freshman Misty Fant led the team with 10 kills and 11 digs, but suffered a sprained ankle that kept her out the rest of the tournament.

Saturday, the team ran into what might as well have been a brick wall, falling to both Cameron University and Freed-Hardeman. "We should have beat Freed-Hardeman," Grey said. "They are not as good as we are." Even though the team put up strong stats, such as Grey's 17 kills, accompanied by 12 each from Tara Duncan and Lekaya Bain, it was little mistakes that cost them the game.

"Our serve/receive game was terrible; that is what really hurt us the most," freshman Anna Schlientz said. "Nor did we communicate on the court well."

Once it was time for the team to play Cameron University, they had still not gotten over the loss. "All of us freshmen were part of really successful high school programs," Schlientz said. "That makes it hard for us to know how to handle losing." Cameron dominated the match, winning in three straight games.

"Despite what the stats say, we played really well against them. They were just too strong," Grey said.

Bye, Arkansas Tech. The team finishes up the regular season Tuesday against Cameron University before hosting the Eastern Independence Regional Playoffs Nov. 15-16.