Bisons defeat William Baptiste at home with the Rhodes Rowdies. 
See page seven for details.

**Project Angel Tree seeks to change lives of children, families**

by Robert Henson

Every year after Thanksgiving, students turn their attention to exams and projects that must be finished before the semester ends. Another option that has been offered for the last five years is the Angel Tree project. This year, Harding has committed to helping 700 children enjoy a brighter Christmas.

Project Angel Tree is chaired on the national level by the Prison Fellowship. Nick Kennedy, the leader of Harding’s effort, said that the organization is dedicated to helping the victims of crime as well as the prisoners. It is the second largest volunteer organization, second only to the Red Cross.

At Harding the project has a relatively short and simple history. Five years ago Nick’s sister, April, brought the effort to school. She led the program for the first two years before passing it to Nick, who has led the project for the last three years.

This year, there has been substantial help from the Searcy community. ARAMARK has donated food to the workers, the Educational Media Center donated copies for the leaflets and other paper needs, and Bike City, a local bike store donated 15 bikes to the project. Kennedy said that the biggest contributor to the effort is the student body. Harding students purchase a copy of Prison Fellowship and told them of our planned effort, the students need financial help to meet their goals and make their dreams come true.

More than helping children at Christmas, the project seeks to change lives. Huntley said, “It is a way to minister to family and kids and to say that we care.” He reminds us that these are real people with real needs, not just because I can see their heart,” he said. Many agreed that the delivery is an extra special part of the process. Kennedy remembers that, when the children hear that the gift is from their parent, a look of happiness replaces what is normally a less joyous remembrance of their parent.

Students choose angels that provide the name of a child and the gift he or she would like to receive for Christmas. Project Angel Tree helps the children of prisoners as well as the inmates themselves.

This year marks the beginning of the Diamond Campaign, a 5-year fundraising campaign intended to allow the University to continue its commitment to providing an excellent future for its students. Through this campaign the University hopes to raise $100 million to help further the service that the school already provides.

This plan includes four areas of need: scholarship funds, endowed needs, capital needs and restricted needs. The scholarship funds will include $13.8 million and will go toward tuition and costs for students who otherwise could not afford to attend Harding. “The privilege of an education cannot be limited to those who can immediately afford it,” the Diamond Campaign brochure reads. “Many of the nation’s brightest, most dedicated students need financial help to meet their goals and make their dreams come true.”

The endowment fund will be used to ensure that Harding continues to provide a strong education by funding many programs and educational opportunities, such as the donation for the endowment of the Brackett Library earlier this semester. The endowment needs a total of $62.5 million.

The capital needs of the campaign make up $16.2 million. This area of the campaign includes projects, such as a new science center, a new bus, various remodeling projects and expansion of the student center and library.

The fourth area is called restricted needs. These funds, totaling $5.5 million, are limited to special areas such as the Walton Scholarship Program, in which the givers restrict the gift to their particular interests.

The leadership of the campaign is comprised of volunteers who agree to tell their friends about the campaign and set up receptions and dinners to get the attention of other possible donors. Tim Bruner, the assistant vice president for University Advancement heads the team. President David Burks said, “As Harding enters the 21st century, the University must be ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We must keep the Harding experience affordable for everyone. Educational facilities must be state-of-the-art, and the curriculum must continue to be academically challenging. The Diamond Campaign is the primary step toward meeting those challenges. Successfully meeting the goals of the Diamond Campaign will provide a solid foundation for the 21st century.”

The plan for Project Angel Tree is led by Bekah Lowe

This year, after the Angel Tree project was announced, everyone who had a child who had been an angel in the program was excited. They had been able to sign up for drivers.

“Perhaps it is because I was young, but I always enjoyed this project,” said a Harding student. “It was a way to minister like Jesus. “Jesus met people at their needs, but he didn’t stop there; after meeting their physical needs, he then introduced the gospel,” Kennedy said. To that end, each child will receive a coloring book of biblical stories along with their presents. The guardians will receive tracts on subjects such as coping with stress.

Those students who were unable to buy a gift but want to serve still have an opportunity to do so. There is a meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in the Hammon room of the Student Center (room 236) to organize the gifts for delivery tomorrow. Then students can meet back in the Hammon room at 9 a.m. to deliver the gifts.

Kennedy said that the project has been changed slightly from past years in that deliveries will only take place for families within one hour of Searcy to allow students to study for finals or whatever other activities they may have planned for later in the day. Kennedy emphasized the need for drivers.

Students choose angels that provide the name of a child and the gift he or she would like to receive for Christmas. Project Angel Tree helps the children of prisoners as well as the inmates themselves.
Looking forward to bridge games

Curiosity, not panic best approach to y2k problems

sometimes I look ahead and wonder how I could possibly be happy when I'm 80 and my parents, many of my friends and possibly even my spouse have died. I wonder how I could enjoy life without the physical and mental capabilities I take for granted now. But when I'm 80, perhaps I'll look back again - this time to my college years - and laugh at the frivolousness of worrying about whether my Prince Charming will come.

However, such comparisons are invalid. My problems at 10 were just as real as they will be at age 80; they are just different and have to be dealt with accordingly. I know of a study that suggests if we were younger when the y2k bug was at each stage of life, I was a happy kid. I consider myself a fairly happy young adult, so I have faith that I'll be content when I'm 80 and the highlight of my week is a bridge game.

I say, I say...

Editor: April Mosser

When I was home during Thanksgiving break my Mom and I had several heart-to-heart talks. (Actually, I cried while she talked and passed me tissues.) She told me that sometimes she wished my brother and sister and I didn't have to grow up, that we could stay young forever. She said she often feels helpless watching us deal with many of our own problems.

We are 16 and 19, respectively, and we no longer have the same problems we had when we were 6,9 and 10. When I was 6, I worried about being able to help a friend addicted to drugs, how to manage money and how to plan for life after college. Then I was 9, and my parents and I talked me through and advise me on, but they can no longer solve them with a hug and rock and even the therapy. When I was young, my problems were also my parents' problems. But as I get older, my problems are more and more that I have to work out on my own.

Even though 20 is far from "old" by most standards, I sometimes wish I could be young again, too. I miss nap time and make-believe and rolling around in the grass and 8 o'clock bedtimes and sleepovers and the ease with which relationships began ("Do you like me; circle yes or no"). I miss the excitement that came in anticipation of Santa Claus and the tooth fairy. Saturday morning cartoons and visits to Grandma's house.

Some old computer programs and these computers will store as "1998" unexpected data very well at all, this could completely. Give incorrect answers or crash because of the year 2000. The Department of Energy, working with the National Science Foundation, is looking for a solution to a few of these chips fail Jan. 1, 2000. This problem will occur due to the interconnected nature of power grids. Many regions of the country could lose electric power. Electric companies have responded to pointing out that many natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, have disrupted regions of the power grid without causing national power outages. They say that any power outages that occur will be isolated quick.

Other problems that could surface because of the year 2000 bug are such things as delayed social security checks, billing errors and phone system outages. Experts have very different estimates of the problems and damages that will occur. Neilsen predicts a scenario of a few late checks and maybe a little switch in the stock market; pessimists are digging shelters in the middle of Utah and stocking up on canned food.

The United States has no publicized contingency plan for a national disaster. The Department of Energy, working with the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), is strongly encouraging power providers to solve y2k problems in these systems as it is possible. Practically every large company in the United States has a team working to ensure that their systems will work, but many are so far behind schedule that there is very little chance of them finishing by Jan. 1, 2000.

The United States as a whole is taking a very casual approach to the y2k problem as compared to our northern neighbor Canada is already training its military reserves for relief efforts related to the y2k problem. Military leaves have been canceled from Dec. 15, 1999, until May of 2000 to better enable the government to respond to whatever situations that could arise. Some experts believe that the world will be "safe than sorry" policy is an overreaction to a less-than-defined threat, but others have applauded Canada's actions as insightful preparedness.

What are American citizens to believe in the midst of all this confusion? The best approach is to seek the truth about this problem and look into exactly what the options are. There are many non-profit organizations online. A good place to start is the Department of Energy's web site at http://y2k.gov/.

An excellent consumer resource is provided by the Cassandra Project, a non-profit grassroots organization formed for keeping the public about the year 2000 problem. Their web site at http://cassandraproject.org/ home.html is filled with information for "preparing for the new year, your family and your neighborhood for the year 2000 problem and beyond."

Citizens must become informed about all the y2k problems and what will happen. Must know when the world is celebrating New Year's five, and "The Artist" is partying like it's 1999, no one will be surprised if the lights go out.

Ladies and gentlemen, the next president of the United States, Hulk Hogan. What a laugh. I'm afraid to death of this you should be too. I was watching the Tonight Show on Thanksgiving night when Hogan strolled out and announced his retirement from wrestling so that he could concentrate all his effort on grappling for the presidency of the United States. I figured this was some sort of prank, but I've found out it isn't true. The Hulk apparently started the new career needed to run for public office - he is breathing. What was really scary, though, was how the crowd responded. They were going crazy for Hogan to be president. They screamed and yelled like a, well, wrestling crowd as Hogan discounted, black taxes and foreign policy. I've seen many political officials talk about these things, but not with the crowd's groaning with laughter. Like this. Also, I've never seen these officials refer to anyone as "brother," as "the Hulk, bro!" and "You better stand down.

After thinking about this, I really believe that if Hogan could get on the ballot, lot many people would vote for him, if nothing else but to try to almost do anything to influence the election. This frightens me. Of course we can blame all this on Anne "The Body" Ventura, who recently used a mind control device to compel Minnesota citizens to elect him governor.

Ventura's win ranked among the biggest upsets of all time, along with Truman over Dewey, Kennedy over Nixon and the aforesaid Hulk Hogan over Andre the Giant at Wrestlemania III. Purists speculated that Ventura's win could ignite a groundswell of support for wrestlers as candidates for political offices, and Hogan's popularity seems to indicate this. So maybe we should all prepare to live in a society led by wrestlers.

First of all, imagine all the neat little slogans that wrestlers can make for social programs. "Let's Put a Headlock on Hunger!" or "Let's Give 'Crime A Cranium!"

Second, I suppose that wrestlers would have a very positive influence on foreign policy. For example, look at this future transcript from a Middle East peace conference headed by State Secretary Randy "Macho Man" Savage:

ARAFAT: I agree that we can plan with your plan that will distribute resources along the West Bank in an equitable manner.

SAVAGE: DIG IT! Netanya: Uh, is that a yes?

SAVAGE: SNAP INTO IT OH YEAH! Obviously the only question is how many Nobel Peace Prizes the Macho Man will win. See Hogan, PACE 3
Yes, it’s holiday season again, and although the weather hasn’t resembled anything like a “white Christmas,” the commercial blitzkrieg that accompanies the final month and a half of the calendar year is in full force.

Along with it come the groans of cynics everywhere, declaring this year’s holiday to be the most “corporate” or “capitalistic” year yet. And since the majority of Harding students are at the age when cynicism is at its peak, you can hear the groans and grunts be heard quite frequently in the cafeteria, dorms, student center, and hallways.

Some people get angry with the commercial side of Christmas; others are downright upset when they hear people talking bad about it. No matter where we are, each one of us lose our innocence. Most of our childish beliefs are shattered, along with naivete about sex, drugs, and alcohol and other people. We know the truth about Santa Claus, the Easter bunny, the bottle in our close friend’s backpack, the reason that girl who sat next to us in English dropped out of school and why our chemistry lab partner always has red eyes. Our general perspective on life begins to change; though we lose a lot of the person we were at 8, some of it remains.

And that little bit of childhood remaining spawns a desire in us, the desire to go back to being a child. We want to be naive once again and live life for the moment, with no worries about tomorrow, no complex issues to deal with and no bills to pay.

But each one of us knows that this is an impossible dream. We know now why our parents told us, “These are the best years of your life.” Yet we want something to hold on to from that period – something we can enjoy and believe in until we die, without being ridiculed by others or causing harm to our own lives.

Enter Christmas.

Look on the face of a 9-year-old boy as he walks an aisle of toys; listen as a young girl counts the number of Christmas lights she sees while riding home after Wednesday night church. Christmas lives wholeheartedly in these children, and though some of us have stopped reading this article and the only ones left reading are the ones who agree with me.

But to all of you who know people who have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas and are way too “grown up” for their own good, drop some chocolates in their box or send them a Christmas card over break telling them how much you care about them. Christmas isn’t about keeping the fun to yourself – it’s about sharing it.

It is a time of giving, a time of letting others know how much you love them, a time to reflect on our lives and a time to remember that we need to be better about things 365 days a year. It is a time to be a child again and to let go of the anger and bitterness that has grown in us.

Charlie Brown’s search for meaning in Christmas still relevant

Twenty five years ago, Charles Schulz wrote a very appropriate tale about the personality of Peanuts characters trying to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. In this tale, Charlie Brown becomes the main character in the annual Christmas pageant, and when he sees all of the commercialism involved in the Christmas holiday, he reacts against it. Instead of selecting a six foot, pink, plastic tree for the pageant, Charlie decides to use a half-dead, one-limbed, three-footer. He does so because, in this tree, he sees a glimpse of the meaning that has been lost in all the commercialism. When his friends see the tree he has chosen, however, they rant and rave at his foolishness in picking such a stupid-looking tree. The tale, though timely in many respects, still teaches a lesson 25 years later.

Charlie Brown’s search for meaning in Christmas still resonates today because Christmas in our society has become completely commercial. On any given Saturday during the last week of November and the beginning weeks of December, stores like Wal-Mart or Toys-R-Us are filled with frustrated parents fighting viciously over the last Blues Clues Sing-A-Long doll or the newest Luke Skywalker action figure. Lines of people wait in the center court of just about any shopping mall around the country to pay for their children to sit in Santa’s lap, take a picture or two and tell him what they want for Christmas.

Christmas movies produced the standard Christmas movie each year in which the main character goes through a process similar to Charlie Brown’s and then hijacks the movie with its own lunchboxes and action figures. Over and over during this time of year, the story of the birth of Christ seems to be told right along the same themes as a D.D.T. commercial. It is apparent that we are buying into the beauty of those pink plastic trees.

If we simply watch the evening news, we can see that this sort of commercialism is desirable. Retail businesses and restaurants depend upon the few weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas as a majority of the year’s profit. Many news stories concern the prediction of sales decreases or increases with each Nielsen report, in a way, become a form of business advertising.

Not only are the few weeks leading up to Christmas filled with examples of commercialism, but the day after Christmas is another blatant example. On this day, commonly referred to as “Return Day,” the majority of Americans once again return to Toys-R-Us, Wal-Mart or some mall because of dissatisfaction with their gifts, for whatever reason. This example is a direct result of the prevailing consumerism of American culture.

At the end of Schultz’s Christmas tale, Linus, the kid with the blanket, reminds the Peanut gang of the holiday’s true meaning. In a touching moment, Linus quotes the story of Jesus’ birth from the book of Matthew. Schultz forewarns the group, with their commercialism and helps Charlie Brown to rescue the dying tree, a living, breathing organism. In other words, in this tale, Schultz reminds his audience not to be concerned with owning the biggest or the best material products, but to concern themselves with preserving life through building friendships and remembering that we owe our existence to Someone greater than ourselves. Despite the passage of time, this tale contains the same power for us today.

Jeff Cummings, freshman
“I was probably 7 or 8 when my suspicion got the best of me and I stumbled upon the new train set I had asked for. It was unwrapped in my parents’ closet.”

Sarah Logsdon, sophomore
“One Christmas Eve I caught my mother red-handed displaying so-called presents from Santa. I vowed to never tell any­one of Santa and scar them for life.”

Adam Halford, freshman
“My mom accidentally leaked the secret to me when I claimed that I got one of my gifts mixed up with a friend’s. She said angrily, ‘It’s not his. I know, I bought it!’ It all unraveled from there.”

Ryan Halford, senior
“You mean, there is no such thing as Santa Claus?”

PHOTO OPINIONS

When did you stop believing in Santa Claus?

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Ryan Halford, senior
“You mean, there is no such thing as Santa Claus?”
by Ryan Cook
Staff

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University

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more readily accessible.

The new college is not in this
year's course catalog, so students
who enroll before fall of 1999 will
have the option of meeting the
old requirements and graduat­
ing from the Honors College.

The Honors program

are tapes, English major David

Johnson does not plan to stay
in the internship, but they


a gathering place for all

Students.

Today the program has grown to
more that
500 students.

The Honors program

started in the fall of 1989 after
two years of work by a faculty
committee to develop it. The

commitee nominated Long to
serve as chair of the program,
which he has done since.

At that time, the program

consisted solely of what are now
called Honors Scholarships, the top
tier of the program. In the fall of
1994, regular honors classes and
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Group attempts to reverse negative attitude regarding ‘Generation X’

by Alva Liimatta

Staff writer

In this, the last week of the semester, most of the University and the Searcy community is taking one last gasp of air before being submerged for the year. December is a month of finals, traveling and restoration. One goal in Searcy, however, is still going strong. K-life is a non-profit organization that provides activities geared toward junior high and senior high students year round. Located behind the police station, K-life, which stands for Kids-Life, has been cracking high students year round. Since it opened in August, kids in grades 7-12 to stay strong in the Lord, stress a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. The international office analyzed Searcy for certain qualifications such as a board of directors, a certain amount of financial support, number of schools and number of colleges nearby. Upon finishing their search, they declared that Searcy was a prime site for a K-Life ministry.

"Before we came, there was a lot of publicity. When K-life had its open house, about 300 kids came out to see us. Since then the number, as we expected, has dropped. We are now developing a base group of around 40 kids in the junior high and 20 in the senior," Canatsey said.

"We are not a church, and we don’t try to be," Canatsey said. “Our goal is to encourage kids to be involved with their own church. The kids have similar ideals in Christ that they have a common thread there. We are a Bible-based ministry. We believe that the Bible is the truth.”

Freshman Dustin Lowry, a volunteer for K-Life, sees big things ahead for K-life. "I think that it is going to be awesome, for the junior high especially. They get so much closer every day. They love to come and worship God. K-life encourages kids to bring a gift," Canatsey said. K-life participants encourage other University students to come and volunteer some time and energy as well. Searcy High School senior Ashley Fincher, a K-Life member, said, “It is a really good opportunity for Harding University students to be leaders. You learn about yourself and your faith and you get to be a role model. Kids really look up to leaders, especially junior high kids. They get close. It is nice to know that you are doing something good, that you are influencing in a positive way.”

As for the service aspect of K-Life’s Christmas philosophy, Canatsey said they would be having a “three and two” drive. It stands for three cans and $2. “We went to His House, and they gave us the names of people in the Searcy community who are at the poverty level. We will give to the 10 families the bags of food we collect. With the money we will buy presents. On Dec. 13, some of the leaders and a few kids will go to deliver the items," Canatsey said.

One of the aspects K-Life prides itself on is being interdenominational. This view was carried by quite a few members in the community due to the group’s attendance.

Matthew West is the owner of Midland Oil and a volunteer at K-Life. He thinks that K-life will break down some of the tension between the churches. "To me, it’s a good outlet for kids around here to discover Christians of their same age but not always of their same denomination. It is the best aspect that it is interdenominational for the high school and junior high. It goes over the typical boundary lines, breaking them down at that age. The kids steady in K-life now are growing up and will be adults around here. If they start in the right direction at their age, they will change the community. I think open mindedness is what it’s all about for,” he said.

Hot one had to twist Lowry’s arm to become a group leader. “I love working with kids; for me it is worth the time and effort to see the kids excited about learning about God and coming to meetings. Some kids need influence from kids our age, not just their mom and dad. I learn so much from the kids and from the problems they bring in. I love being there for them,” he said.

The leaders meet weekly on Sunday at 8 p.m. The meetings usually last until 9 or 9:15. Canatsey said, “If you are not into the Bible study, maybe for time or your own spiritual life, you are welcome to come to the weekly meetings, just to interact with kids.

“The main thing is that you must want to disciple to kids. I have a desire to get into the life of kids. Beyond basic volunteer work, we ask group leaders to fill out an application. We then set up an interview, basically just to get to know them. We want to see what Christ is in their life and tell them what they’re looking for in K-life and inform them of what we are going to need from them,” she said.

West was firm in his belief about Harding’s place in K-life. “Harding is a very important, if not the main influence on this community. The students will see what’s going on and see that college students actually care and are cool enough to hang around a lot of high school kids. The teen years are the most formative years. Kids in their age group can get into the most trouble. It gives something to do on weekends and keep them out of trouble,” he said.

To volunteer at K-life for more information, call K-life at 305-1100 to talk to Kelli or Patrick, or stop by the house on 107 N. Elm.

Harding University

Dry Cleaners

279-4247 E. Park Ave.

1608 Beebe-Capps Expwy

268-0100

Students short on cash, time rely on creativity

by Sara HARDENBY

Staff writer

Home for the holidays. The theme of countless Christmas songs and television specials, the phrase calls to mind cherished holiday memories. Singing carols in front of a roaring fireplace. Stringing lights and ornaments on a freshly cut evergreen. Baking cookies. Making candy. Staying warm, fragrant kitchen. Hunting all over town for that one special gift.

A Christmas season spent in college, however, paints a completely different picture. Instead of freshly-baked Christmas cookies cooling on the counter, you see groups of girls huddling in a room. "It is five o’clock and I am sitting in the box on your desk. Time once spent searching crowded malls for Christmas gifts must now go toward marathon study sessions for final exams.

Though the atmosphere of college doesn’t lend itself well to traditional celebrations, students still find inventive ways to incorporate the holiday season in or the rigors of academic life.

Decorations adorn various buildings on campus to create a festive mood. Strands of colored lights and a tree brightened the cafeteria, and lush green garlands and soft Christmas music grace the lobby of the Reynolds Center. Many residence halls are decorated as well.

The girls in my dorm and I decorated the tree in Kendall lobby, and last Saturday morning I sat by the lit-up tree and listened to Christmas music while I did my homework," sophomore Ali McGuinness said.

Some students let their creativity extend to their own rooms. "We’re putting up lights, stockings and little decals on the windows,” freshman Olivia Preston said. “It helps us get into the Christmas spirit and look forward to the holidays.”

The town of Searcy offered festivities to those seeking a slice of small-town Christmas celebration, including a parade down Race Street and decorations all over town.

"My friends and I will probably walk through Berryhill Park to look at the lights," sophomore Katherine Curr said.

In spite of the efforts to spread the spirit of the season on campus, students still long for the familiar holiday rituals of home.

"I’m from up north, so I miss the cold weather," sophomore JB Bitler said. "I miss all the decorations in my hometown. I also miss being around family."

Another challenge to students comes from buying gifts for family and friends, as budgets stretch tight and time becomes scarce. Some people choose to juggle study time with jobs to finance their holiday shopping; "I work on and off campus," junior Ben Etheridge said. "It’s hard but not impossible. And one of my jobs ends Tuesday, so I’ll have the rest of the week to study.”

Others, like McGuinness, seek unusual sources of income for their gift purchases. "I used my DCB last year to buy whatever they had left in the gift shop. I bought my mom a velvet robe and filled it with candy," she said.
A similar rendition of a very popular Christmas poem (with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

by Steve Kell

'Twas two weeks before Christmas and all through the night,
The creatures had studied by late candlelight;
They turned in their papers, their journal complete;
Their finals were over: 'twas time for some sleep!

Their course grades were hung on the class wall with care,
And several students came by and gave stare
At grades that were yucky and grades that were low,
In hopes that a miracle grade point would show.

The McInteer emptied for holiday break;
And I, in my office, was already late
To pack up my briefcase and head for the house,
No creature was stirring, not even a mouse (as in computer).

When out in the lot there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter.
Away to the window: who knew what I'd find -
I reached for the drawstring to open the blinds.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
A shiny gold Caddy behind McInteer.
With a little old driver so cute and genteel,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Neale!

With mem'ry impeccable, names he'd recall
And spout them out clearly while walking the hall:
"Hi Jamey, Hi Billy, Greg, Joshua too,"
At times he'd look closely with:
"Don't I know you?"

But something was different, tonight, it did seem,
The smile was the same and his eyes always gleam;
What gave it away was that little red suit,
The furry white trim, and the beard and the boots.

He had a nice laugh - 'twas as sweet as grape jelly;
But jogging prohibits a little round belly.
He entered the atrium, looked up the stairs;
He thought better of it, and then with a flair
He pushed in a button and tapped on the floor,
Immediately opened the elevator door.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
He gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
The bag on his shoulder was filled to the top
With schedules and transcripts. And then he did stop
In front of the wall where the grades had been posted,
Where tears had been shed and where "profs" had been roasted.
I guess it was Christmas, the holiday season,
Because what he did went beyond rhyme or reason.

As quick as a flash he was finished and leaving;
I ran to the wall, and I was not believing
That what once were "C's" and some "D's" and much worse
Were now all straight "A's".

A magical Christmas beyond expectation,
St. Neale had removed all our students' frustrations;
But I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight:
"Happy Christmas to all! Next time - get it right!"
Bisons kick off season with 6-3 record; conference play to begin after holidays

With nine non-conference games under their belts, the Bisons have forged into the 1998-99 basketball season with a 6-3 record. Tuesday night's 86-61 victory was their second win over Williams Baptist since the Bisons launched their season Nov. 14 with a defeat of Lyon College in overtime, 90-88.

The home opener against Tarleton State had 500 people assisting the Bisons in a dominating victory, 75-56. Junior guard Levern Floyd led all scorers with 21 points. Floyd also had an impressive six rebounds and two steals.

Junior transfer Chris Hardaway finished the game with 15 points, four rebounds and two steals. Lenney Bert and Steve Meadors contributed 13 points each. A senior forward, Meadors had an all-star defensive game with 12 rebounds, two steals and a blocked shot.

"An exciting crowd and enthusiastic student body helped us win. Playing at home really gets us pumped up," Bert, a junior transfer, said of the Rhodes Rowdies. Junior guard Jason Vines said, "I love coming to these games. It is so exciting with everyone yelling and screaming. It helps build school spirit."

The Bisons lost their next home game, against Midwestern State, 54-77, the Saturday after the student body left for Thanksgiving break. They defeated in-state opponent Williams Baptist at Walnut Ridge the following Monday, 70-65.

In their own Thanksgiving Classic, the Bisons lost to Christian Brothers, 55-66, and beat University of Arkansas/Monticello, 77-72. A Texas road trip resulted in a split with A&M/Kingsville and A&M/Commerce, each game by a 3-point margin. The victory came over Kingsville in overtime.

Back at home this week and with students back from their Thanksgiving break, the game against Williams Baptist drew more than 2,000 fans. Lone Star Conference Player of the Week Brent Adams led all scoring with 16 points on 5-of-6 shooting from the field and 11 for 18 from the charity stripe.

As a team, the Bisons shot 34 for 73 from 2-point range (47 percent), 7 for 18 from 3-point range (39 percent) and 11 for 18 from the charity stripe (61 percent).

"Our guys are playing hard," Coach Jeff Morgan said. "We're a little inconsistent right now, but, considering that we're in a rebuilding year after losing six seniors last year, we're doing great."

Morgan singled out Adams' performance. "Brent has really come through for us in the last few games. We were really proud to have him honored as the conference player of the week after his triple-double last week," he said.

The Bisons have only two games left before Christmas, - against University of Arkansas/Monticello and Christian Brothers, both on the road. Their next games in Rhodes Field House will be Jan. 7 and 9, the week before students return from the Christmas holidays.

NBA Lockout...

Who Cares?

It doesn't seem conceivable that a man with nine cars can dare say in front of the nation that, "I just can't afford to make ends meet." Utah Jazz veteran Karl Malone did just that. Now, I'll admit that I don't know everything going on in this whole situation, but come on! I doubt that the difference of three percent will make any of these players file a Chapter 11.

I am a giant fan of professional basketball, but it may be awhile before I will flip on ESPN to see how my favorite teams fared. I think that these players need to get back to the basics of why they are playing the game in the first place and remember when they started in pick-up games and ran inside to watch Dr. J and Wilt "the Stilt." Granted, Chamberlain was not by any means an upright, moral figure in society, but at least he never struck for more money. (Although after scoring 100 points in one game, he could have considered it.)

Filtering through the middle of all of the NBA nonsense is a small ray of hope - college basketball. There have been some great match-ups already and quite a few upsets. College players may not have a new BMW for each day of the week, but they can sure play some ball.

We are privileged enough on this campus to have some great entertainment in the Rhodes Field House. The Bisons and Lady Bisons come out every week to play hard for themselves and their fans. Both teams have put out great starting records with potential to go on into the post-season, and as a fan, I am excited about watching.

I am not sure if there is anything better than surounding the court with 2,000 of my closest friends and trying to scare our opponents. Our goal is to make so much noise that the other teams run in a panic back to their bus. Opposing players, coaches and an occasional referee say that the Rhodes Field House is an intimidating place, and I am very proud to be a part of the action.

The sixth man can only get so much credit for the wins in Rhodes Field House because our teams are showing strong improvements through some pretty big losses off of last year's team. Many players have stepped up this year to lead their teams as far as possible.

So, who needs the NBA when you have the Rhodes Field House? If we could only get them on ESPN, we would have something to watch after curfew.

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Brent Adams pulls up for a jumper against Williams Baptist.

Lone Star Conference Player of the Week Brent Adams pulls up for a jump shot against Williams Baptist.
Lady Bisons defeat opponents despite absence of fan support

Although they have played four non-conference games in Rhodes Field House, the Lady Bisons have had only one game with the typical student crowd in attendance. In the home opener against Tarleton State Nov. 19, the Lady Bisons pulled out a 12-point victory before a crowd of 1,200 fans.

Their next three games were also at home, but students were gone for Thanksgiving break and the crowds dropped to an average of 700 per game. In spite of these numbers, the Lady Bisons went into Thursday's matchup with Southern Arkansas University (SAU) with a 6-1 season record. The 16-point loss came in a road game Dec. 3 at Texas A&M/Kingsville. The six victories have been at an average point spread of 11.7 per game.

Senior forward Molly McPherson has been the team leader in scoring for four of the team's seven games with 15, 26, 20 and 9 points against Tarleton State, Midwestern State, UAM and Texas A&M at Kingsville, respectively. Against SAU, senior guard Stephanie Barron scored 21 points. Junior forward Susan Reiss and junior center Rachel Raglin were high scorers against Lyon College and Texas A&M/Commerce, with 14 and 16 points.

"We are off to a good start," Coach Brad Francis said. "We hope to continue winning when we start conference play in January."

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