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Construction on women's apartment dorm to begin in June; set to open August 2000

by Elizabeth R. Smith
Staff writer

It seems to happen every fall. The number of students who desire to attend Harding University as freshmen and transfer students increases every year at a rate that does not allow housing capacity on campus to keep up. In an attempt to remedy at least part of the housing "crunch" that occurs at the beginning of each new school year, construction will begin this June on yet another women's dorm, in addition to several renovation projects currently in progress.

According to University President David Burks, the new women's dorm, which will be located on Park Street across from the Harding laund­ry center, will be another apartment-style dorm that will house approximately 200 women. "This apartment dorm will be bigger than Sears Hall and very similar to the Village Apartments," Burks said. The new building will offer two-bedroom apartments like Sears Hall; unlike Sears Hall, these apartments will have full-size kitchens and living rooms.

According to Burks, this new dorm is only part of a five-year strategic plan that intends to provide structures needed on campus. According to Burks, this plan may include another men's dorm in the future.

While the plans for additional housing are set for future dates, Harding is currently in the process of improving and updating certain facilities and systems presently being used by most of the campus.

According to Burks, the major goal is to decentralize the present utility system, increasing the capacities of both the heating and air conditioning systems all over campus. The implementation of a utility tunnel will replace the need for the existing boiler room located near Harding's laundry cen­ter on Park Street.

The utility tunnel will be an underground system of tunnels that will supply the campus with its utility needs. Because this will be an underground unit, several areas around campus are being dug up for its installation.

The heating systems that we have right now use high-pressure steam. The new heating system will use gas," Burks said. Rather than a massive boiler room supplying the heat for nearly the entire campus, groups of buildings will have independent heating systems.

Several buildings on the periphery of the campus are already being successfully heated independently, including the Ganos Athletic Center, Harbin Hall, Armstrong Hall, Sears Hall and the Mabee Business Building.

Perhaps the most obvious benefit of the change will be the addition of parking spaces that the boiler room and old pool housing currently stand. In order to meet the goal of doubling parking capacity in that vicinity, "The boiler room and the old pool must come down," Burks said.

In addition to the new heating system, an improved air conditioning system for the campus is also in the process of completion.

New chillers are being added to an existing build­ing located behind the Ad­ministration Building," Burks said. "This spring will be the first time that sufficient air conditioning needs will be met."

A brick sign, located near the new three-way stop on Park Street, is also in the process of being completed. According to Burks, this sign is simply one of the finishing touches to the University's Beebe-Capps entrance. "This will be another welcoming sign for the campus," he said.

Three college bands discuss how they got together and where they are going. See page four.

Bisons' track team begins spring training. See page eight.
Taking a girlfriend/husband home to meet Mom and Dad is a major step. It is also very risky. Anything you have not yet revealed to these significant others — whether it's intentional or a simple oversight — will undoubtedly be uncovered during this visit. Your parents know their kids like none else. They were there when you took your first step and were waiting up when you returned from your first date. Who else has a picture of you as a baby in the bathtub? When we look at our parents we see where we've come from and where we are going. I catch myself hanging on the sure-all benefits of warm salt water like my Mom does and wanting to immerse myself in my own culture and learn how to drive a motorcycle like my Dad does. Needless to say, our parents have tremendous experience on the kind of people we become.

A few months ago Judith Rich Harris stirred things up with her challenging theory in her book titled The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out the Way They Do Matter Less Than You Think and Peers Matter More. According to the Sept. 7 issue of Newsweek, Harris argues that "after parents contribute an egg or sperm filled with DNA, virtually nothing they do or say — no kind words or hugs, slaps or tirades; neither permissiveness nor encouragement nor scorn — makes a smidgen of difference to what kind of adult the child becomes. What genes don't do, peers do."

I don't think anyone would debate the huge amount of influence our friends and classmates have over us. According to Harris in the same article, "The best predictor of whether a teenager will become a smoker is whether an adult in the home smokes. This is a better predictor than whether her parents smoke." This may very well be true. I know a lot of kids who think their parents' smoking did not make some mistakes. Their moral instruction does not always keep me from making some of the same mistakes. It is always a little voice — a conscience or whatever you want to call it — that reminds me what I'm doing is wrong and evokes a certain amount of guilt.

My Mom always reminds me that the members of my immediate family are the best friends I'll ever have. I look to my friends for support and I care what they think, but in the end, my parents' approval of that guy I take home will mean much more than what any of my friends think.

Beware of trap of ethnocentricity: there is another world out there

The focal point of a picture or painting is usually the middle. Have you noticed that on most maps of the world that we see, the United States is in the middle? This placement likely reflects a deep ethnocentricity of American culture — we often think we are the center of the world and that everywhere else is irrelevant, or where else is the middle? We see, the existence of the world and that every­thing is part of what has made America strong.

Ethnocentricity has several detrimental effects. One is that we deprive ourselves of the rich divers­ity of other cultures and their contributions. We, too, conveniently forget that our country is com­posed of people who have migrated here from literally all over the world — all of whom brought traditions, science, literature and music. This divers­ity is part of what has made America strong.

Another danger of ethnocentricity is evident when we attempt to impose on other nations our own way of thinking and behaving. Usually, the traditions of other countries are deeply imbedded, and while we may respect them, our modes of behaving or thinking, that does not necessarily mean they are wrong. As Christians, we need to be sensitive to such culturally diverse expressions. In our attempts to teach about Jesus, we must be careful not to differentiate between Christianity and Americanism. It is for this cause that Harris offers classes on cross cultural evangelism — to try to sensitize us to the differences between what is Christianity and what is American tradition.

Another valuable educational expe­rience available at Harmony is the sea study program. This encourages stu­dents to spend a semester in Italy, Greece, England or Australia. By these opportunities that help broaden our horizons are the summer campaigns. And yet another is the opportunity to excavate in the Middle East and be exposed to a multi­dimensional cultural experience. Here, volunteers not only live and work in close proximity with people from multiple cultural backgrounds, but they are also exposed to a diachronic cultural reflection as they try to understand how people lived and thought hundreds and even thousands of years earlier.

One benefit of these experiences is the growing sensitivity that there is a complexity to human beings. While the specific adaptations may vary with each individual cultural expression, the fundamental question of concerns for family, survival, justice and meaning truly make us a global family. The more we understand this reality, the better equipped we will be to bring understanding and peace to a world that still desperately searches for it.

Letters to the Editor

Having been a student at Harding University for almost two years now, I am saddened by the "marriage factory" myths so stubbornly circulates around us. Is Harding merely a mechanical maze of cogs and sprockets assembling ready-made couples and then announcing their creation with a shill what? Certainly not! Likewise, how many times have I been asked by well-meaning friends and family members, "So, when are you going to get your MRS degree?"

The most unfortunate result of these "harmless" myths and jokess can be found in the hearts of some singles on campus. I know singles who are pitiful, lonely individuals who must squander their time in the most insane, unproductive and meaningless of activities.

Therefore, being a content single myself, I wish to proclaim to any and every discouraged single on campus a different message and ask — as long as you are not depressed, you are not blessed! When I first arrived at Harding, I hoped for a great, meaningful relationship with a committed Christian. I am now single, and I thank God, for He knew the desires of my heart even better than I did! He gave me singleness and the chance to "fall in love" with Him!

Know that being single has nothing to do with boredom or loneliness. Because I am a free agent, my time is my own. In the past two years, I have developed my relationship with God (which is the most important relationship of all) through my involvement in music and my involvement in church activities and other service organizations. For me, being single has been one of the
Employers have right to monitor e-mail

Michelle Kitchens

Under the reasonable­ness standard, privacy rights are violated only when employees have a reasonable expectation of privacy that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable. Employees cannot realistically expect privacy using a mode of communication that is easily accessible to others.

Anyone who uses the internet and e-mail with regularity realizes how easily someone can access another person’s account. Employees often view e-mail as a short-term communica­tion that will be seen only by the recipient and can be easily deleted, but total deletion of e-mail messages rarely occurs because back-ups to messages are made automatically in almost all e-mail systems.

Many of us have seen the com­mercial where the employee forwards the entire list of salaries to the employees of that company with the press of a button. That is how simple it is for the message intended for one person to be seen by all. The California courts recognize that the expectation of privacy is really very low, and they have upheld an employer’s right to intercept messages and even to dismiss an employee based on the content of messages.

This news will drive most people into a state of privacy paranoia because they begin to think about someone reading their e-mail messages. That is because more than 40 percent of all e-mail messages sent by employees do not involve work­related topics, according to Privacy in Employment Law, a report by University of Illinois Professor of Law Matthew Finkin.

No one outsiders reading personal messages, but what are employees doing using company e­mail to send private messages? Company e­mail is not for the purpose of talking about last Friday’s date or maintaining correspondence with an old college friend. That is what a home address is for.

Employers have every right to monitor activities relating to workplace efficiency. More than likely, the employer is paying the bill, and part of his job is to prevent the misuse of agency resources. Using e-mail for personal messages is no different than taking the company car on a vacation. It is abusing privileges that employers provide for convenience, and it is unethical.

Employees should be aware that their employers have a legal and ethical right to monitor e-mail in the workplace.

So, the best way to deliver personal messages is still in person.

Privacy of postal mail must extend to e-mail

Amanda Jones

The monitoring of employee or student e-mail by the employer or university has become a more commonly accepted practice with the recent growth in the use of e-mail and the internet in businesses and universities. The increase of e­mail surveillance raises questions about employer and student privacy rights and the legality of reading someone’s e-mail without consent.

Several other forms of communi­cation have been previously addressed by the courts regarding surveillance of that communication and how that relates to an individual’s rights to privacy. Monitoring employee telephone conversations is held by the courts as an invasion of privacy, and the governmentally accepted practice of the privacy of the mail to those who use the U.S. Postal Service, making it a federal of­fense to open another’s mail.

Traditional mail has always had this type of protection against another opening or reading someone’s mail, but isn’t e-mail the same? The only difference between the two is that one is electronic. Shouldn’t the same rules apply to the two kinds of mail? If employers and universities are reading the employees’ or students’ mail, isn’t that breaking the law? The problem is that the internet has evolved so fast that there hasn’t been a precedent in the courts that determines how e-mail should be treated relating to its surveil­lance.

Because there is little protection regarding the monitoring of e-mail, many fall prey to those who abuse technology and use it to enter the privacy of one’s personal thoughts or feelings that are meant only for the addressee.

Although monitoring of employees and students is necessary to guarantee a certain amount of work to be done and that they obey the rules, monitoring e­mail goes beyond ensuring such things as these and enters into the invasion of privacy. There must be limits to this type of monitoring.

The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 states that interception of e-mail transmissions is prohibited by “unauthorized individuals or individuals working for a government entity, acting without a proper warrant.” Although it sounds like protection against e­mail interceptions exists, plenty of exceptions also exist. Three that are relevant to the workplace are where one party consents to the provider of the communication service can monitor communications, and where the monitoring is done in the ordinary course of business. Some of the exceptions seem relevant, but they can also be confusing. Consent is said to be given two different ways: implied or actual. While no one can be sure of what is implied by another, it is the responsibility of the company or university to tell the employee or student about their policy on the interception of e-mail.

The fact remains that e-mail is a form of mail; the only difference is that it is electronic. Since the form of mail, there are laws that protect it and the one who sends or receives it. Monitoring e-mail is invading a person’s privacy, something that is protected by law, and it should remain untouched by any employer or university official.

Comments

Laura Evans, junior

“I think it’s possible for people to get in and read it. I don’t write freely. I don’t write things that I don’t want other people to read.”

Jeff Bowman, freshman

“I think that Harding monitors our e-mail. I think that they let it go through but that they will talk with us if it’s question­able.”

Shawn Breeden, junior

“I think it’s secure. I’ve never really worried about it. I trust Harding. If you’re not up to no good you don’t have to worry.”

PHOTO OPINIONS

How secure do you think your e-mail is?

Shawna Coulter, junior

“I think that the monitoring of e-mail is unwarranted, but I do feel that monitoring occurs all too frequently. I do not feel that my e-mails are public business and officials under no circumstances should be able to access my files.”

Letters

Continued from Page 2

greatest gifts God could ever give me.

It is intoxicating and thrilling and inexplicably wonderful to give your heart totally and completely to God.

Such love is intoxicating and thrilling and growing too much to worry about it, and the joy in my heart has soothed that annoying twinge in the bottom of my stomach. If you are single like me, please see it as a gift and use this once-in-a-lifetime chance to fall in love with the One who really matters.

The greatest gifts God could ever give me, I feel like a girl in love, and I could not be happier! Perhaps God is preparing me for someone, but I’ll leave it in His hands. For now, I am learning and growing too much to worry about it, and the joy in my heart has soothed that annoying twinge in the bottom of my stomach. If you are single like me, please see it as a gift and use this once-in-a-lifetime chance to fall in love with the One who really matters.

Erica D. Lee

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Traditio
College bands create a scene in musical void

by Alva Liimatta
Staff

To many students, 801 East Race St. is the address of a coffee shop that feels more like an extension of Harding University than a business of Searcy. Midnight Oil opened in November of 1997 and has served countless cups of hot drinks and tasty deserts to Harding students since.

The owners of Midnight Oil, Matthew and Mandy West, have not stopped with serving the physical needs of food and drink to Searcians, but are administering to more intrinsic values as well.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, and occasionally on the weekends, Midnight Oil opens its doors to local and non-local bands.

"We started having bands about two months after we opened. We had always wanted to do something like that," explained Matthew West. "We didn’t advertise except for a few posters here. People would tell their friends and the next thing you know, we didn’t need an advertisement."

To set up a date to play, the interested band calls and West takes out the calendar he keeps in a drawer. "Most times, we will know the bands from a past performance. When there is a new guy, we screen them. We’ll ask what they’re doing, then cross our fingers. There have not been many bad experiences except when a group is bad, they’re never asked to play again. Bad means not talented or too loud." West said that the benefits of having bands pass a coffee shop are always profitable. "It depends on how you look at it; it’s decent exposure but a lot of people think we are rolling in the money. This is a fun business; it usually pays as much as or worse than when we don’t have music. Many of the students don’t buy anything," West has thought of possibly charging entrance fees. "We don’t want to dissuade people, but there has to be a way. We would like to pay the bands and make benefits too."

Shoebox is a group that often performs at Midnight Oil. It is composed of Jason Middlekauff, the lead singer; Chris Mirante, who also sings and co-leads guitar and bass; John Burgess, a guitarist and backup vocalist, and drummer Terry Zikes. They got their name from a song of one of their favorite bands, Banned Ladies.

It began with Middlekauff and Mirante writing songs together years ago. "He is an English major, I’m a music major. It was a great idea. As time went on, we added cool pieces to the puzzle," Mirante said. "Just at the beginning of last semester we did start playing as Shoebox."

The band has performed at Midnight Oil, Midnight Madness, various talent shows and a benefit concert at White County Fairgrounds. The group is just finishing a CD titled "All you can Eat Buffet," and it should be released in a few months.

"Our goal is basically to get the CD out," Mirante said. "We’ll send it away to record companies and then take whatever life deals us. If we had the chance to go on tour and play for the rest of our lives, that would be great. If not, we had fun in college.

"We don’t play as often as some bands, but it’s a totally different show every time. Sometimes we’d do stupid things, like make up songs on the spot. We’d just name a name that was unique. We’d grossly mess up sometimes, but if people are looking for perfect music, they’re going to be disappointed. It’s a symphony. We’re happy as long as we’re having fun and the crowd is having fun," Mirante said.

Mirante described the group’s music as a hip-hop folk rock, an alternative hip-hop- something like Dave Matthews meets the Bee Gees.

"All the songs are totally different – no two sound alike. Some are rock, some are hip-hop or ’60s. We dress to the tune," he said.

"I love Midnight Oil. I call it the Murcas. We try to give them business when we’re performing. One time we changed the lyrics to one of our songs and said, ‘Buy coffee at Midnight Oil. We’d try to support them,’" he said.

Middlekauff discussed the band name. "I was just looking through some newspapers one day and they had a list of things, and perhaps we are reading too much into the names. We decided to name our band a variety of items, and our band has a variety of styles and moods, the kind of stuff you would find in a shoe box," he said.

Burgess said, "We pray before every show. We are committed to doing this for God’s glory. He gave us the ability. Music as a whole has to be more than just a business."

Another band that performs at Midnight Oil occasionally is Soulful Jones, a band that just came together recently.

Michael Cooper, the only female, says the group started in the winter of 1997. O’Connell was playing with some friends and was introduced to Brandon. "It was just the three of us, and then we heard about Ray Waller. We really wanted to have a bass, so we said, ‘let’s play around.’ The first time we played, it totally clicked. This week we’re making our first CD, and last year we had a tape. This year is more substantial – not that we want to be really famous – we just want to make really good music – sharable music, and, whatever happens, we’ll go with that," she said.

O’Connell describes the music as "a kind of mellow rock, but sometimes it gets hard and feisty."

"It is amazing how we clicked the first time. We have been practicing together and we do it so well. We have a set part. We learn a new song every week," she said.

Bonneau said, "I’m a music major. I’m a music major. It’s not that we want to be really famous – we just want to make music, and, whatever happens, we’ll go with that," she said.

"We share pretty much the same musical likes and dislikes. We each have our own style, but it seems we work really well together," he said.

"A writer in Searcy’s Daily Citizen described us as ‘laid back ’70s California Rock.’ It is hard to describe our style; it’s not like anything out there. It’s not alternative rock or mainstream; it’s more of a folk acoustic – way folk oriented," Bonneau said.

"We try to encourage business at Midnight Oil to say ‘Thank you,’ be it opening doors. Everyone has to play somewhere for kind of a starting point. Last year we took four weeks and recorded a small tape. We sold around 100 at one performance. We are having our CD releasing party the weekend after Spring Sing. We will send off the CD to places in Little Rock and Fayetteville. The title of the album will be ‘View From Here,” he said.

"The name – we talked about it last year when we didn’t have a name," Bonneau said. "We played three concerts, and we wanted to have a name for the talent show. We sat down and talked about it. It was a really hard time. We said we were not a Christian band, but we are Christians. 2 Peter says we are living stones. We had T-shirts printed up, with lower case. It’s not a big deal, we just think lower case would more accurately represent what we stand for. God has really helped us," Bonneau said.

Bander or performer interested in playing at Midnight Oil can stop by or call the shop at 258-9014. Dates can be made for bands as of right now. We will send off your clothes to us!

For all your dry cleaning needs, send us your clothes to us!

Harding University Laundry & Dry Cleaners
We’re conveniently located on the south side of campus
279-4247
E. Park Ave.
Students recall favorite jokes from Bill Cosby's visit

by Ryan Cook
Staff writer

At about 9:05 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, Assistant Dean of Students Terry Davis took the stage of the Benson Auditorium and an observant audience member shouted, "That's not Bill Cosby!"

Davis was, however, on stage to welcome Bill Cosby to Harding for the second of two shows that night. Dr. David B. Burks also welcomed "America's favorite entertainer" and presented Cosby with a copy of Against the Grain.

Cosby came on stage dressed for a workout, which he undoubtedly got in his approximate 90-minute show. He was clad in his blue tour sweatshirt, green sweatpants, black loafers and short, white socks. "It was hilarious when he came out for such a big performance in a combination of loafers and a sweatshirt," freshman Erin Clawson said. "The entertainer had done his homework. Most of his routine stuck to topics that college students, particularly the group of Harding students, could relate to. These included college life, graduation, marriage, parenthood and, of course, dating. His first series of jokes centered on dating.

"It's sort of like if you look at yourself when you're dating and you finally realize that you've fallen in love with somebody; that you want to grow old with them," Cosby said. "You don't see real old. You don't see like 'I've been with this man for 58 years.' You don't see that. You just see the two 20-some-things, not 'oh, you would look kinda cute 90 years from now.'"

Cosby also poked a little fun at Harding early in the show. This joke drew one of the largest laughs of the night.

"I asked your president, 'Why do the boys come here?' He started laughing because I didn't talk, 'Why do the girls?' I know why the girls are sent here.'"

Later, Cosby shared insight on how times have changed.

"In 1937 (the year he was born), there was no such thing as child abuse. Any old person could just come up and hit you.

"In 1944 there was no dyslexia, no ADD, you were just dumb."

Most of the second half of the routine centered on his experiences in sending one of his daughters to college, from admission to graduation.

Once, Cosby called the president of the college he was trying to help his daughter get into.

"His secretary said, 'Now how do I know this is Bill Cosby?'

"Cosby's response? In his best Fat Albert tone: 'Hey, hey, hey.'

"Cosby said that 400 students were in his daughter's college graduation class. They consisted of "eight magna cum laudes, summa cum laudes and cum laudes" and "992 thank ya' lordies."

"Right alongside fatherhood is being a husband, about which Cosby had plenty of advice for all the men in the audience."

"When [wives] get angry, these two eyes move up here (to the center of the forehead). They are focused! There is nothing funny. So you think something is funny. Think it and let it go. She's not going to laugh because she is focused on what has to be done."

He closed the act with a story about his grandfather who, every Sunday morning during Cosby's childhood, would offer "three-hour" prayers which he could never understand. Finally, when Cosby came back after some time away in the military, he told his grandfather that he could never understand a word of the prayers.

His response, according to Cosby: "I wasn't talking to you."

"It was funny and all-around cool," freshman Katie Clinton said. "His presentation was so cool."

Everybody had a different favorite line from the show.

"I loved the show," junior Becky Burks said. "My favorite joke was the 'why do girls come to Harding' joke."

"My favorite part was when he called the mailman the Lord because he giveth and he taketh away," sophomore Collin Markum said.

The shows were a stop on Cosby's "Hello Friend" tour. He was on campus as part of Harding's 75th Anniversary celebration.
by Misty Mathews
Staff writer

Wright Penn and Paul Newman take your sweetheart to see "Message in a Bottle," this movie is sure to fill your love tank for the rest of the month. The Luis Mandoki-directed film is a touching and powerful story of love and loss.

Theresa Osborne (Penn), a researcher for the Chicago Tribune, is on vacation while her son Jason visits her ex-husband and his new wife. While running on the beach, she finds a bottle with a beautifully poetic message inside, signed "G." Because she is a researcher, it is convenient that she has connections that help her eventually track down a sailboat builder named Garret Blake (Costner) from the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Garret struggles with putting to rest the memory of his wife Catherine. He leads a lonely and quiet life and his only friend is his father, Dodge (Newman), who attempts to help with his son's grief for Catherine. The more Theresa learns about Garret, the more she wants to meet him. She travels to North Carolina and finds him working on a sailboat and she tells him that she is there to do research for a few days. He invites her for a sailboat ride in the morning, and she accepts. When she accidentally leaves her jacket in the boat, Garret returns it and attempts to get a date with her by asking, "Do you like me?"

Theresa and Garret start falling in love, although he is still in love with Catherine. Theresa neglects to tell Garret that she found one of his letters in a bottle and a few others by doing research on him. Meanwhile, they make romantic fires on the beach, take more sailboat rides and have marshmallow fights. The movie will make you wish that you could take your shoes off and walk in the wet sand as soon as the movie is over.

Yes, Garret does eventually find out that Theresa knew about his messages, but there is a little twist thrown in. I will stop there so I will not ruin the entire movie. Critically speaking, this movie has a surprise ending that is refreshing compared to the "and they lived happily ever after" endings that most movies have. However, plan to bring your Kleenex or just grab some extra napkins with your popcorn, because this movie is prone to jerk some tears. This movie made me laugh, cry and think my heart even skipped a few beats.

"Message in a Bottle" will have you thinking about the story just before you go to sleep and the next morning while you are in the shower. The story stays with you all day because it is a movie about losing love, finding love and never knowing when it will slip away. This movie proves that good things come in small packages.

Scintillation

The golden buffalo walking the hard, black way

a used-car salesman mindset imperfection buffed, polished and put on display squeeze lemonade out of this lemon and choke on reality we 'll meet in the gutter someday face down and diSillusionsed

— P.W. Davis

Editor's Note: This space is being reserved for student submissions to the Tribune each week. To be considered for publication, send your short story, poem or pencil drawing to Box 11192 two weeks before publication date. All submissions must include the signature and phone number of the creator.
Harding Bisons need string of wins to stay alive for conference play

by Julieta Gil
Staff Writer

The Bisons have had a rebuilding season, and the road has been somewhat rocky. "We've had a real successful year with a new kind of team, and they have done a great job as far as working really hard. We've won a bunch of games on the road," Coach Jeff Morgan said. "It seems that we played good on the road, probably a little better than we have at home."

The Bisons won against Ouachita Baptist Monday, Feb. 8. "That was a big win for us to keep us alive in the playoffs," he said.

Morgan said that even though they did not win in the last two games at home, the Bisons tried hard. "We needed to execute a little bit better on the offense. In this conference, everybody is good, so we've got to go out there and shoot really well," he said.

Morgan said that they could have won those two games since they were close. "We had the ball in the one-point range at the end, so we had a chance to win, but we need to execute better offensively," he said.

The Bisons have one game left, and their hopes for post-season play is gone. Morgan said he expects a good end of season, and he wants to start with a new beginning next year. "We'll have everybody back next year, except for Brent Adams and Steve Meadors, who are the only seniors," he said. "We'll try to end the season positively."

Morgan said that every one of the guys are great players, especially as a team. "We don't have superstars, but they work great together," he said.

Dwayne Elliott said that the team has gone through a hard period. "We always start playing really good, but at the last minute, we lose energy, enthusiasm and confidence," he said.

Elliott said that most of the season has been positive. "We've played well most of the season; our loss of energy has been recent," he said. "The best thing about us is that we always play as a team; we work hard."

Elliott said that they have been losing, for different reasons. "We have talked about what we are missing to be able to win," he said. "We haven't executed the defense as we must, and everyone on the team should make sure that we know what we need."

The Bisons played Thursday, Feb. 18, and will play Saturday, Feb. 20, against Southwestern Oklahoma State University. They will play their final game of the season in the Rhodes' Memorial Field House.

Freshman forward Jason McGinty said that the team has performed well. "We are good as a team; we bring the games together," he said.

McGinty said that, even losing, he knows they feel confident. "We haven't lost confidence at all; we just need to know what's going on and fix it," he said. "I can't tell right now what to expect by the end of the season, but we'll do our best."

Lady Bisons look optimistic for post-season play

by Robert Henson
Staff writer

The Lady Bisons suffered through a rough week, but they look to finish strong this week in their quest for the Lone Star Conference title. They lost to Ouachita Baptist Monday and won against Central Oklahoma Thursday and lost to Northeast Oklahoma Saturday, leaving them with a record of 17-7 and 7-5 in conference play.

Monday's 75-74 loss at Ouachita was a tough one for the Lady Bisons. A basket by Ouachita put them up by one with eight seconds left, and a shot by Emily Prysock bounced out at the buzzer.

Prysock, senior guard, noted that the game served as a wake-up call for the team. "You never want to lose a game, but I guess the positive thing was that we got our focus back for the next game," she said.

After the game against Ouachita, the Lady Bisons faced Central Oklahoma. The renewed focus was evident as the Lady Bisons recovered from their last game with an 82-69 win.

The Lady Bisons had a little more trouble on Saturday against Northeast Oklahoma, eventually falling 78-76.

After playing Cameron last night, the Lady Bisons finish out the regular season tomorrow afternoon against Southwest Oklahoma (also 7-5 in conference) in a game that looks to have big playoff implications.

A victory in either of the last two games would assure the Lady Bisons a spot in the conference tournament, but if the cards fall right for the Lady Bisons and they win both games, they could reach second place and host a playoff game.

Regardless of how the playoff picture develops, tomorrow's contest will be the last regular season game and possibly the last home game for many of the Lady Bisons.

The Lady Bisons have one game left, and their hopes for the conference tournament, but if the cards fall right for the Lady Bisons and they win both games, they could reach second place and host a playoff game. Regardless of how the playoff picture develops, tomorrow's contest will be the last regular season game and possibly the last home game for many of the Lady Bisons.

"I've never thought about not playing basketball until now," Prysock said. "This does serve as motivation for us to keep focused on the little things that help a team win."

Win or lose, Prysock said she has enjoyed the time she has spent on the team. "This is a great group of girls, and it's much easier to bounce back from adversity like we had last week when you're playing with your best friends," she said.

Stephanie Barron takes a jump shot against the Lady Tigers from Ouachita Baptist. The Lady Bisons are looking toward the conference tournament, and they expect strong results.
Bisons’ track has positive outlook on upcoming spring season

by Sara Hardesty

Staff writer

Winter may be far from over, but athletes from the men’s and women’s track teams are well into their training for the spring season. The teams practice six days a week for around two hours each day. Because track encompasses so many different events, training routines vary for individual athletes.

Last year the men’s team was most successful in the longer running events, winning the steeplechase, 5000- and 10,000-meter at the conference championships. Coach Bryan Phillips expects more of the same for this season, anticipating that middle distance events will be the team’s best hope for national competition.

“Our strongest events will be the middle distance events – the 800- and 1500-meter. I have no doubt that Albert [Tabut] will qualify for nationals in the 800 and possibly the 1500 also,” Phillips said.

Junior runner Tabut performed well in both cross country and indoor track this year, setting a school indoor record in the 800. He looked forward to training with a strong team this season.

“We have a great team this year,” Tabut said. “When you have just a few people, it’s hard to win as a team. We have a lot of freshmen coming in this year, and we hope they’ll help us a lot and become more experienced for next year.”

Tabut, who red-shirted the 1998 spring season, was modest about his individual aspirations.

“I just hope to improve on my time,” he said. “I think this year we can take even more people to nationals, and I’m going to try my best to be among those who qualify.”

Other events lacked the strength in numbers that the distance team enjoyed, but were expected to fare well.

“The distance runners will definitely be our strength,” junior sprinter Richard Ashlook said. “I’m really about the only sprinter. My goal is to get my time under 50.0 seconds.”

The women’s distance team also had a sizable turnout this year, its numbers bolstered by several new freshman runners as well as some seasoned veterans.

Sophomore Tia Tarole, who placed sixth in the conference in the 1500 and 3000 last year, battled a severe case of mono this winter, but hopes to make a comeback and improve on last year’s times.

“I had mono all through finals and Christmas break,” Tarole said. “I was in the hospital through finals. I’m missing indoor track now because it takes a lot to get back. Mono is so hard on your system. It’s hard to do things that used to be really easy. I used to run 12 or 10 miles a day. Now, the one mile that I get to do is harder than those 12,” she said.

The sheer numbers of the female distance runners will boost the team at conference, according to Coach Phillips.

“Our distance runners are pretty good, although they aren’t nationally competitive,” he said. “We have lots of girls entered in the distance races, which will help score points for us as a conference.”

Though the distance team had size on its side, Phillips predicted that the best performances of the season will be concentrated in the sprints.

Last year junior runner Callister Uba was a national sprint champion, and Coach Phillips expects her to again dominate the 100- and 200-meters.

The female jumpers also show promise, Phillips said, particularly freshman Meredith Garner. Garner will compete in sprint races, as well as the long jump and triple jump.

“I think the long jump and triple jump will be my strongest events,” Garner said. “This year is kind of a learning experience. It’s my first year competing at a collegiate level, so I just want to figure out where I fit into it all. If I do place in the meets, I’ll be really excited.”

The teams will not host any home meets until the track is resurfaced, Coach Phillips said. Their schedule will take them all over the region. Their first meet will be March 3 in Louisiana.

On April 3, some members of the team will go to the University of Memphis while others will compete in Austin at the University of Texas. The conference meet will be April 16-17 in Abilene, Texas. The NCAA National Championships will take place in Emporia, Kansas.

The Bison track schedule will pit them against a number of tough teams. Last year, five teams from the conference finished in the top 20 at the national meet. The Bisons and Lady Bisons finished 18th and 20th, respectively, at nationals.