Cox’s class explores other religions

Yavonda Fletcher
Bison copy editor

For most Christians, the Lotus Sutra, the Koran and the Torah are scripture for other popular religions. Even the few that study world religions might find it difficult to understand what it means to be Buddhist, Muslim or Jewish.

However, 30 students in Dr. Monte Cox’s World Religions class spent the first part of their Thanksgiving break, Dec. 18-22, in Chicago, gaining a greater understanding of other religions as they are actually practiced.

Cox said he designed the trip so that students would be able to see the differences in a textbook’s perspective from those held by actual worshipers.

“I wanted my students to grapple with the hard questions of exclusivism [a belief that only one group of people are actually practiced]. Great evil comes from listening, not talking. We need to find out where others are coming from before we tell them the answers.”

Cox and his students left for Chicago on Thursday and returned to Searcy around 1 a.m. on Monday. During their stay in Chicago, the group toured the Baha’i House of Prayer, attended services at an Islamic mosque, listened to Soka Gakkai Buddhists chant nam myoho renge kyo and sat in on a Vivekananda Vanalanta (Hindu) scripture class. According to Cox, while at the Soka Gakkai learning center, the students met an alumnus of Harding Academy in Memphis, who is now a practicing Buddhist.

“I think that the Soka Gakkai center had the most effect on the students because of the Harding Academy graduate that we met there,” Cox said. “It [Buddhism] is so far from a personal God. It is really an atheistic place where people gather to chant, not worship. We walked out of there with a need to worship the Lord and be reoriented with the Truth. It really hit us how far from the Truth they were.”

The group also attended Sabbath services at a reformed Jewish temple, visited Chinatown, witnessed a Bar Mitzvah and attended a Saturday night service at Willow Creek Community Church. Students also spend time with members of the Lakeview Church of Christ and some even helped out with the church’s pantry program.

At several of the places, students were able to talk with the various members about what they believed and how they had come to that particular belief.

“Some of the students also had time to explore parts of Chicago. They spent time on the Navy Pier and some managed to squeeze in shopping on Michigan Avenue’s Magnificent Mile.”

Students also found time to bond with each other, according to Leah Romine, senior.

“It was fun getting to know people in my class who normally sit across the room, and then be able to talk to them about spiritual matters,” she said.

While the friendships were an important part of the trip, most said that was not what they would remember years from now.

“I think I’ll remember the guilt I felt after talking to the people,” Romine said. “In a way, I felt responsible for the alienation of these people from Christ’s love. I think that I will always pay closer attention to how I, as a Christian, come across to people.”

“I felt a real sadness,” Cox said. “A sadness that, generally speaking, we, Christians haven’t done our job very well. We haven’t communicated the Gospel with sympathy, empathy and compassion.

“But on the other hand, I have a greater resolve to communicate differently myself and to teach my students to do the same. I realize the importance of speaking the truth in love just as we were commanded.”

‘Campus computer systems Y2K compliant,’ Rowan says

By Nick Pitcher
Bison staff writer

As the year 2000 rapidly approaches, businesses all over the world are taking precautionary measures in order to assure customers of their Y2K compliance.

In the midst of all the Y2K hysteria, Harding students may wonder: “Is Harding University Y2K ready?”

The answer to this question is a resounding “yes,” according to Buddy Rowan, vice president for finance.

Harding has taken steps in every way possible to assure their electronic accounts on campus are prepared for the year 2000, he said.

According to Rowan, being Y2K compliant is not as easy as it may sound.

“The basic component in assuring we are ready for Y2K is changing the year from a two-digit code to a four-digit code. It sounds very simple, but changing the software is more time consuming than you might think.”

According to Rowan, recent compliant changes were made in two distinct areas: the business office and the campus voice mail system.

The business office software included cashier accounts, student accounts and student financial registration.

When the software for the business office was updated last summer, Harding converted the software to Y2K compliant material.

The previous software had been in use for the last 15 years.

Rowan noted that all financial information and class registration information is secure with the new computer software.

The updated software was used this fall for class registration and continues to be used for financial and registration purposes.

Rowan said the upgrade in the voice mail system was not just Y2K related.

“The voice mail system was too small for the number of people using it, and needed to be replaced anyway,” Rowan said. “We installed it this fall, and it seems to be working very well.”

In addition to updating software and systems, Harding contacted all the major vendors on campus such as banks, utilities, and Aramark catering to ensure that they are Y2K compliant and will continue to provide their services after next semester starts.

Students still may worry whether the electricity at Harding University will still function properly in the year 2000.

“Some electric companies that we are using has assured us that their service will still work fine when the year 2000 rolls around,” Rowan said.

“On the remote chance that there should be a Y2K related blackout, the problem would be taken care of by the time students arrive back at school.”

For students concerned about whether they will still be able to call home with their Personal Authorization Code (PAC) number after returning from Christmas break, the Harding Telephone Service (HTS) has guaranteed that it will work efficiently after the new year.

Rowan said students need not worry about coming back to cold rooms in January of 2000; Harding’s heating and cooling systems have been certified as Y2K compliant and currently running efficiently.

Rowan hopes that Harding’s thorough preparation for the year 2000 is reassuring for students.

While others may be apprehensive about the new year, Harding students can come back from winter break knowing that the campus is safe from any major Y2K problems, Rowan said.
In exactly 22 days the long-awaited year 2000 will dawn upon us. Party-goers will ring in the new millennium as they have never done before, perhaps exactly like they have done before.

Meanwhile, the rest of us will calmly await the onset of the Y2K computer monster which will likely turn out to be nothing more than a Y2K scare.

This New Year’s Eve night may be one of the most anticipated and feared evenings that any living person can remember. Songs have been written and rewritten to commemorate the evening, while movies, television and newspapers have hailed the coming millennium into the commercial world with as high a price tag for which it can be sold.

For the past several years, the world has begun to wonder what this event will mean for mankind, and whether the world will suddenly go up and end as so many have predicted.

This column, however, is neither to discuss the validity of the coming of the world’s end, nor the crazed mania that currently looms over every computer screen as the clock continues its countdown.

Instead, I would like to spend these few lines reflecting on a well-spent century that has taken mankind on a technological rollercoaster ride and that has challenged our morals, our goals and our directions as a people.

It is almost impossible to consider the changes that have occurred during the past 100 years. Our life and times have evolved such a great deal since the beginning of the previous millennium that it is almost strange to think that we share a time with people who knew nothing of the Americas or microwave dinners.

However, it is when I think about the past century that I am most overwhelmed by the social change and progress that has occurred.

I am proud to think of a world that has witnessed the home to great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

While their admirers may be frustrated that their attempts to create a peaceful society were not completely successful, each person has in some way benefited from their work.

Every time peace is chosen instead of violence and knowledge over ignorance, their efforts are rewarded.

They are not alone. In the last century, humans have experienced every phenomenon from walking on the moon to watching a movie in 3-D.

They have driven cars, read books and traveled further and quicker than anyone ever imagined possible.

These same people, however, became the witnesses to two terrible world wars, and were not prepared to witness the assassinations of several leaders who were killed on the basis of their principles. I stand amazed.

In exactly 22 days the world will bid farewell to another millennium, as it has done before and may only do one day again.

However, rather than celebrate a moment in time, we should commemorate where we have come from and where we are going.

Define your own millennium madness

Are you tired of "millennium madness"? Are you weary of all the hype and hysteria? Have you stocked your pantry with canned goods yet? Have you built your nuclear-resistant lean-to in the backyard? Well, we have not. And we will not.

In fact, we are sick and tired of all the commercialized mania associated with a n o t h e r evening spent with the bionic Dick Clark.

Do you think Santa will be affected by Y2K? Perhaps he will replace that coal in your stocking with something much worse—like Backstreet Boys CDs.

By the way, why is it that so many companies and corporations are claiming their products as the official whatever of the new millennium? How can one can a candy as infinitesimal as a M&M be the official candy of a thousand year span?

Ladies and gentlemen, we submit to you that in the year 999 nobody claimed mutton as the official wilderness food of the new millennium.

Therefore, rather than ignore this in-sane, unpreventable phenomenon, we, J.A. Wiser and Matt Milligan, are perfectly ready and willing to plunge headfirst into the millennium sea of senseless claims and comments.

Although we all know all too well that you wanted this title, we have declared ourselves the "Official College Students of the New Millennium." And why not? Is there some official registrar of the next millennium that must give us approval to give ourselves such a grand a title? Obviously not.

As the "Official College Students of the New Millennium," we graciously inform you of our "Official Agenda of the New Millennium." We will be the voice of the new millennium, providing useful skills that can be used as collateral. A major consideration is Elizabeth Smith.

Matt Milligan
Bison guest columnist

J.A. Wiser
Bison guest columnist

Keep campus clean, beautiful, Shackelford says

Dr. Jimmy Carr was heard to frequently say, "It’s great to be at Harding." As I am now in my 26th year, I echo that sentiment. We have great students, faculty, administrators and facilities. We have great support personnel in every area.

I want to express my appreciation for those "unsung heroes" who clean our buildings and grounds. We see them every day, but we do not think them enough for their important work.

Credit cards should be used in moderation

Editor's note: The following letter is in response to the Nov. 12 Facing the Issue "Should credit card companies market to college students?"

I am disturbed that some do not give thought to helping keep our campus clean.

I arrive at my office about 7 a.m. Many times I pick up trash that has been carelessly thrown on the McNiece parking lot the night before. I appeal to all students and faculty to do their part in keeping our campus looking nice by using the receptacles for trash rather than throwing it on the ground.

Don Shackelford
Dean of International Studies

I was interested in reading the student's comments concerning credit cards. Credit cards give bankers great concern. Over the years, I have seen credit cards become the financial downfall of many fine young people.

What I have noticed is that the purchases began with the occasional trip, gift or item which could not be normally paid out of the family's budget. The practice continues until there is an alarming amount on the credit card, sometimes reaching the credit limit. At that point, another card is used and increased in the same manner. The cycle is repeated, then the customer will come into the bank to do a consolidation loan to lower the rate and pay off the cards. The problems most custom­ers have in refinancing is that they are unable to secure the debt because the entire debt was consumed rather than used to purchase assets that could be used as collateral. A major concern that lenders have is the customer has developed a habit of spending beyond their means and will once again use credit cards to balance the deficit.

What I would urge you as students to do is to remove your two credit cards and use them only for emergencies. Never let the balance accumulate more than could be paid off within a year. When you begin getting all those applications in the mail, throw them away. Be a wise consumer and shop for cards that offer you the lowest rate and other features that will benefit you.

I appreciate the administration's stand on solicitation of students on campus by credit card companies. Financial responsibility is something that has to be taken seriously and the lack of financial responsibility can lead to other problems, spell into our families and prevent us from living the type of life we all desire and being good stewards of our assets.

Donald E. Miller
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Opinions

December 10, 1999

Safety more important than school traditions

Last summer, a fellow camp counselor, Jim Wyatt, told me about the legendary bonfire held every year at Texas A&M. He spoke lovingly of all the A&M traditions. This was the first time I had ever heard of the bonfire.

The bonfire has been a tradition at A&M for 90 years and is a symbol of unity against the University of Texas, long-time rivals of A&M. This tradition began as a pile of garbage and scrap wood, but has progressed to a production that includes 6-8,000 students, 7,000 logs, several cranes and the help of local contractors, according to the Nov. 29 issue of Newsweek. Creeds of students work in shifts around the clock for a week making sure the bonfire is ready to be lit before the game. The bonfire, which measures 40 feet in height, is actually designed to fall in on itself as it burns so that the risk of injury is minimal. On Thursday, Nov. 19, the center pole (a telephone pole) apparently snapped and logs rained down on the student workers. Twelve students were killed and more than 100 were injured.

This was the first time the bonfire had ever resulted in tragedy. According to the Newsweek article, there have been minor incidents in the past, but none with such a devastating effect. Traditions are important. However, there comes a time when all traditions need to be re-evaluated. In light of the recent tragedy at A&M, maybe it is time to reconsider the wisdom of continuing the bonfire tradition.

Possibly the most important issue in the bonfire reevaluation is that of safety. Traditionally, the instructions are kept in a tattered notebook which is passed down from class to class. There are also building regulations and a staff advisor; however, there is no construction expert to oversee the project nor are students required to follow building codes.

For a project so renowned for its engineering, one would expect more careful attention to be paid to ensuring that things are done properly. Alcohol consumption is another factor in the equation, not only during construction, as was pointed out by a 1989 student-faculty study, but also during the bonfire itself.

Safety during the event is also a huge factor. What if the fire got too large or out of hand? What if the crowd got too rowdy? What if the bonfire collapsed the wrong way? These questions bring up disturbing and maybe rarely considered issues. Forty feet long flaming logs crashing down on spectators is a horrific thought, but one that must be considered. I am not saying that the A&M bonfire should be stopped at all costs. Maybe the bonfire should be smaller. Maybe it should be built under a professional's supervision. Maybe all of these precautions and more should be used to ensure that the tragedy on Nov. 19 never happens again.

One A&M student was quoted in Newsweek saying that it would be a tragedy to the students who died if the bonfire was not allowed to continue. It would be more of a tragedy if the wisdom and safety of this time-honored tradition were not reevaluated honestly so that more lives will not be needlessly lost. After 90 years, the tradition would be missed. However, that pales in light of the anguish suffered by the friends and family of the 12 students who died. A&M should care about its students more than a bonfire or tradition.

Amanda Rush
Bison staff writer

The wisdom and safety of this time-honored tradition needs to be reevaluated honestly so that more lives will not be needlessly lost.

Bonfire still relatively safe activity for students

On Nov. 18, the traditional bonfire at Texas A&M University collapsed, killing twelve students and injuring dozens more in a landslide of massive logs.

In the wake of this disaster, many people are groping for solutions and ways to prevent a similar tragedy in the future.

One of the proposed solutions is to ban the bonfire completely. While it is understandable to see a reaction like this, there is little reason to do so since the bonfire is a fairly safe event.

The case of the bonfire is similar to an airplane crash. When a plane crashes, the public reads the news of the crash, but does not realize how rarely a plane crash actually occurs. This is precisely the case with the bonfire.

Just as the public becomes concerned that air travel is not safe, a public that had never heard of the bonfire tradition before now believes that it should be banned, not realizing that this was such an unusual catastrophe. If the public knew how rarely an accident like this occurs, they would not see banning the bonfire as a realistic course of action.

Consider for a moment how long this tradition has been in place at A&M compared to how often serious tragedies have occurred. Of 90 years of bonfires, there has never been an accident of comparable size. It is true that in the 1980s students were treated for injuries related to the structure's construction, and in 1994, the bonfire collapsed harmlessly because of shifting ground. In both instances, no one was seriously injured. Currently, no one knows the cause of the bonfire's collapse. The bonfire was constructed well within university limits, and its design was the one passed down from class to class since the bonfire's inception. The students also received help from local contractors who are experienced in creating such structures.

Unless investigators find evidence to the contrary, design does not seem to be the critical element. That means the problem may lie in the material or workers. So if the problem does not lie in the design of the bonfire, then the bonfires of the coming years will not be as dangerous as this year's. Banning the bonfire would be unnecessary and a major letdown to the students of A&M. The mere fact that the students build the bonfire is a testament to how much it means to them. It is a towering stockpile of spirit for the Aggies, their biggest pep-rally before the game against their rivals, the University of Texas.

It is possible that the problem is a chronic one, such as alcohol. In 1989, a student-faculty study raised concerns about drinking among the involved students. If alcohol contributed to the accident, then special guidelines should be created that students working on the bonfire must follow. Regulation would allow the tradition to continue safely.

The bonfire tradition should not be banned over a single incident. Not only is the bonfire safe, but it is a major center of spirit for students, faculty and alumni alike.

John Dykes
Bison staff writer

"The bonfire tradition should not be banned over a single incident. Not only is the bonfire safe, but it is a major center of spirit for students, faculty and alumni alike."

Speak Up

Should the Texas A&M annual bonfire be allowed to continue for the sake of tradition?

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Bison staff writer

"The wisdom and safety of this time-honored tradition needs to be reevaluated honestly so that more lives will not be needlessly lost."

Kristi Durough, sophomore
"Yes, as long as they are more careful to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

David Ockey, freshman
"No, I do not think that they should be allowed to continue. Traditions are good, but not when they endanger lives."

Angela Berend, senior
"No, I do not think that they should be allowed to continue. Traditions are good, but not when they endanger lives."

April Buchanan, sophomore
"Yes, just because they had one problem doesn't mean that they should have to stop."
One-act combo packs Little Theater

By Casey Neene

Bloom staff writer

Oedipus the King, a classic Greek tragedy, and This Is a Test, a modern comedy, are not two plays linked together. However, for two nights, they shared the same stage as members of the Harding University theater department presented both one act plays Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater to sold-out crowds.

Tiffany Yecke, junior and director of Oedipus the King, said that although the two plays are different, the unlikely combination made the production unique.

"My play was very different from This is a Test, but I'd like to think of the two together as dinner and dessert," Yecke said.

The differences in the two productions were evident in the sets and costumes. The set of This is a Test modeled a high school classroom complete with desks and Scantron testing forms. The cast was dressed like modern high school students. The setting for Oedipus was the forming area.

In "a lot of ways, the play was performed the same as it would have been 3,000 years ago," Yecke said.

At the beginning of the performance, Yecke told the audience she gained an appreciation for classic Greek dramas while spending a semester in Athens with the Harding University in Greece (HUG) program. She admitted that directing classic Greek plays was not the easiest of undertakings, but added that she wanted to direct Oedipus because it "posed more of a challenge." Written around 429 B.C., Oedipus has its roots in the Greek mythology tale of the fall of King Oedipus, the ruler of Thebes. Doomed from birth by the prophecies of shepherds (Adam Sullivan, sophomore) who foretold the ruler murdering his father, Oedipus (Allen Johnson, senior) fulfills the prophecy and in turn loses his kingdom.

While 20th century audiences may have trouble relating to the story of an ancient ruler, Ellen (Carla Stevens, senior), a high school sophomore whose worst test-taking nightmares come true, proved far easier to identify with and understand.

"We had to find literally hundreds and hundreds of random objects," she said. "We had to make a lot of them."

For Ralls, the payoff was working with "an enjoyable cast."

"We had a really fun cast," she said. "There were several people that had never been in a play before and they had fun with it."

Both Yecke and Ralls directed the one acts in conjunction with their COMT 313 play production practicum class, a requirement for all junior theater majors. During their senior year they each will direct a full length play.

December graduates prepare for life after college

By Elizabeth A. Britton

Bloom staff writer

As the end of the semester approaches, both students and faculty are thinking about what comes next.

Some, however, will be heading home to their families to enjoy the holidays and prepare for next semester. Some, however, will be embarking on a new journey.

For 234 graduating seniors, Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m., will mark the end of their undergraduate careers and the beginning of something completely different.

After spending more than 17 years of their lives in school, the December graduates are suddenly faced with what many consider to be the biggest challenge of their lives.

This fact has contributed to a common fear among many, including Stacy Hammitt, senior.

"I'm both excited and nervous about graduating," Hammitt said.

"Leaving school and starting out on my own is probably my biggest fear. This is the first time I will be solely responsible for myself."

"Many not only fear being on their own, but whether or not they will be successful, according to Archie Walker, senior.

"My first reaction to graduation is, 'Alleluia! But my biggest fear is whether or not I'll succeed spiritually, in my family and in business,' he said.

Although this is an exciting time for each of the graduates, many believe they are leaving behind a family once they march across the Benson stage, according to Hammitt.

"I feel that Harding has prepared me for the outside world and I'm ready to move on to that next level," she said. "However, I know that I will miss my friends."

"We've always been there for me and now as we graduate and scatter around, I know I will miss them the most."

A graduation dinner will be held Monday, Dec. 13, in the banquet rooms above the cafeteria. Graduates will rehearse their march on Thursday, Dec. 16.

The ceremony, which will be held on the Benson, will be headed by President David Freeman, vice president of Radiofone Inc.

His concern is one of the last independently owned and operated wireless telecommunications companies.

He is also the founder and president of Freeman Engineering Associates, a past U.S. Secretary of Commerce to the District Export Council and a World Trade Center board member.

Fall 1999 Final Examination Schedule

Fall classes beginning:

(Classses meeting daily and Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

7:30-8:50 .............................................. Tuesday 2:40-5:10
9:45-10:35 ............................................ Wednesday 2:00-5:10
10:45-11:35 ........................................... Monday 8:00-10:30
11:45-12:30 ........................................... Thursday 2:40-5:10
1:00-1:50 .............................................. Wednesday 8:00-10:30
2:00-2:50 .............................................. Monday 2:40-5:10
3:00-3:50 .............................................. Tuesday 12:00-2:00
4:00-4:50 .............................................. Friday 2:40-5:10

(Classses meeting Tuesday and Thursday)

7:30-8:30 .............................................. Thursday 12:00-2:30
9:45-10:45 ............................................ Saturday 8:00-10:30
10:45-11:35 ........................................... Friday 8:00-10:30
11:45-12:50 ........................................... Thursday 12:00-2:30
1:00-1:50 .............................................. Wednesday 2:40-5:10
2:00-2:50 .............................................. Monday 12:00-2:30
3:00-5:00 .............................................. Friday 12:00-2:30

Two-hour classes will schedule finals for the first hour and 40 minutes of the test period. Finals in kin Meology activity classes and foreign language classes will normally be given during the last class meeting before finals week. No other final examinations are to be given before Dec. 13. Final examinations for night classes will be given the week of December 13-17.

Changes made at student request must be approved by the teacher and Dr. Neale Pryor, vice president for academic affairs. A fee will be charged. A teacher may make a change in the time of an examination period only with approval of Pryor.

Harding community raises more than $44,000 for student's medical care

After the plans were made and the money was counted, more than $44,274 was raised on behalf of Sara Hardesty, a junior, who is suffering from a severe eating disorder and is in need of complete medical care, according to Dr. Lou Butterfield, professor of communication.

After donations from local churches are totaled, he expected the final total to be about $50,000.

The money raised will pay for Hardesty to be admitted to a 45-day, around-the-clock treatment program in Arizona for those with similar disorders, Butterfield said.

Although a committee of eight faculty members and two students had decided to bring Hardesty's financial and spiritual need before the entire student body during chapel more than a week ago, it was not until last Monday that Butterfield made the appeal.

"We really wanted to help her and we needed the entire student body's backing to do that," he said. "There are so many on this campus with the same problem that we want to help them."

Although those involved were only hoping to raise $30,000, there was an overwhelming response to Hardesty's need, Butterfield said.

She is expected to leave for Arizona sometime next week after completing final exams.

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From student to teacher – Dunham makes transition

By Casey Neese
Bison staff writer

Andy Dunham did not plan to teach English courses when he graduated from Harding last May. However, Dunham, an adjunct English instructor, now attends faculty meetings with many of the professors he had for class only one year ago.

Last summer, Dr. Dennis Organ, English department chairman, asked Dunham to teach two sections of English Composition 111 and one section of English 100 this semester.

Both Dunham and Jennifer Thweat, a '98 graduate, were hired to teach classes normally taught by Sherry Organ, according to the English department. The Organs are teaching at Harding University in England (HUE) this semester.

"At first I was kind of floored," Dunham said of the offer, which he said came as a surprise. Dunham described his decision to take the position as "off the cuff."

Dunham was hired a couple of weeks before the fall semester began. Being considered a colleague to the same professors he had as teachers only a year ago was, at first, a little awkward for Dunham.

"My first faculty dinner was a little surreal," he said. He said that, although he is still adjusting to the change, faculty members have really made him feel welcome.

Another awkward aspect of Dunham's new position is the fact that most of his students are only four or five years younger than him.

However, he said he took this in stride by being open with his students from the beginning of the semester.

"I asked them to be patient with me," he said. "I told them that I'm new at this and that I may make a few mistakes as I go."

So far, Dunham said the semester has been an enjoyable experience for him and his students.

"They've been good; we're having fun," he said.

He said that one of his students asked him if he would be teaching additional English courses next semester.

For Dunham, that was a compliment to him as a teacher.

"That made me feel really good; that has been the high point of my career so far," he said.

Dunham said the recipe for successful education is keeping the classroom "fun and lively."

He said he does little lecturing and uses various group and individual activities to cover the course material. His creative tools include character sketches, where students are given the name of a fictitious person and must write a description of that person.

He hopes to enroll in a doctorate program sometime next year and eventually teach British literature.

Dunham, who began college as a biology major, said he acquired his love of literature when he read "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce in one of Dr. Larry Long's classes.

"That's what threw the balance," said Dunham, who had already been considering changing majors at the time.

In addition to working with his students, Dunham enjoys working with the English faculty as well.

"I found out that they are a lot cooler and funnier than I realized as a student," he said.

But Dunham said he appreciates the English faculty for more than their pleasant demeanor. His student at Harding, he said, was not sure whether or not he wanted to use his English degree to teach.

However, he said he has decided to pursue a career in teaching, a decision he credits to the fact that he had good teachers at Harding.

When he is not teaching, Dunham enjoys reading, baseball, basketball and listening and performing alternative music.

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Recently-opened Cafe Santa Fe: great food, long lines

By Justin Lacey
Bison staff writer

Practice makes perfect. A trip to Cafe Santa Fe, Searcy’s newest Mexican restaurant, will serve as a reminder of this cliche since the restaurant is apparently experiencing some grand opening glitches.

Every time a new eating establishment opens in Searcy, people seem to turn out in droves. My friends and I experienced this phenomenon last Friday night as we joined the crowd wanting to try this latest offering.

We arrived at 5:15 p.m. and were told the wait would be about 30 minutes. Numerous couples and families arrived only to turn around and leave after seeing the long line.

We decided to stay and see for ourselves if the food would be worth the wait. Approximately 50 minutes after we arrived, we were finally taken to our table near the back of the restaurant in an almost empty section.

I guessed that the empty tables were designed to keep the new staff from getting too busy or flustered, but it seemed unfair when I considered that those empty tables could be filled by the people standing outside.

My friends and I opened our menus as chips and salsa were placed in front of us. Immediately, we noticed the extensive use of color.

From the brightly colored menu to the mixture of yellow, blue and red corn chips on the table, it was obvious that Cafe Santa Fe values a strong visual presentation.

The menu includes traditional Tex-Mex items, such as tacos and enchiladas de colores, which feature yellow, blue and red shells or tortillas, priced between $6 -12.

I ordered the $6.99 “Southwest Garlic Chicken Burrito Wrap,” which included fajita chicken, rice, beans, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes folded into a garlic wrap. It was supposed to be served with ranch dressing for dipping and french fries, but instead came with more beans and rice on the side.

My friends ordered the $7.99 chicken fajita quesadillas and the $8.99 “Macho Chimii,” a flour tortilla stuffed with beef, beans and blended cheeses, then fried and covered with chili and cheese.

While we waited for our order to arrive, I read about Kokopelli, the humpbacked flute player who serves as Cafe Santa Fe’s symbol. He has been a representation of power and energy throughout the Southwest for many years.

The brochure on the table expressed Cafe Santa Fe’s desire to capture Kokopelli’s energy and celebrate his musical prowess. “Rock on, little guy,” completed the brochure and served as an explanation for the use of rock ‘n roll, a slightly unusual choice in a Mexican restaurant, as the background music.

When our food arrived, we all noticed the generous size of the portions, especially the “Macho Chimii,” which easily lives up to its name.

The three of us enjoyed every bite we could, but still fell short of cleaning our plates.

We left the restaurant satisfied with the quality of the food and hoping that the service will improve with time and experience.

My advice is to wait at Cafe Santa Fe until after the Christmas holiday. The novelty will be wearing off, the employees will be more familiar with the menu and as a result, will be better able to serve a crowded restaurant.

Stevens Art Gallery showcases dedication, talent of four seniors

By Mark Bonnister
Bison staff writer

Last Sunday, four of Harding’s senior art students welcomed guests into the Stevens Art Gallery for the opening of each student’s senior art show.

Joel Reynolds and Chris Hinton have teamed up for their senior showcase and will share the gallery for the next week. Jennifer Scism and Lesley Busby have used the neighboring gallery for the past two weeks.

The senior art shows are free for viewing and all the artists said they will consider selling their work.

“We decided to work together on this because we really needed something to accent our art,” Hinton said. “We seem to work well together, which really unites our work.”

Hinton, who will graduate in December, said he places a real emphasis on graphic design in his work, an aspect he feels is best shown in a tribute to the Rock/Pop up 2 group.

Reynolds, who will also graduate in December, said he too places a real emphasis on graphic design in his work. However, emphasis he also creates work in other mediums such as oil wash and charcoal.

Busby, who will graduate in May, started her artistic career early. She sold her first piece in a children’s art auction in May, said her primary source of inspiration comes from Beverly Austin, professor of art, one of Scism’s many art teachers who has guided her throughout her four years at Harding.

“She is a truly awesome teacher,” Scism said.

Scism, who does not prefer any specific medium, is interested in art history and hopes to pursue a career working with a museum.

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Bison struggle early, look for future success

By Alva Linnwala
Bison staff writer

While the men’s basketball team (3-5) has had a rocky season so far, optimism for a winning season is reverberating from both coaches and players. The Bisons will continue to try to improve their record tomorrow when they face Lyon College at 8 p.m. in the Rhodes Memorial Field House. The Bisons will play their last game of 1999 next Saturday at home against Southern Arkansas University.

They begin the year 2000 with four straight road games and return home Jan. 20, for their first conference home game against Southwestern Oklahoma State.

Last Tuesday, the Bisons posted a 93-81 victory over Williams Baptist University in an offensive explosion in which the Bisons shot 52 percent from the field. Levern Floyd, senior, led the way, pouring in 30 points. Chris Hardaway, senior, and Michael Jackson, freshman, each added 18 of their own.

Hardaway also had a career-high nine assists in the win.

However, before Tuesday’s game the men had lost two in a row. Coach Jeff Morgan said he believes the Bisons will improve their record as they become comfortable playing together.

“We didn’t play as smart as we probably could have. We made some bad decisions,” Morgan said. “That’s where you want that experience to come in. You’ve got senior players, you want your experience to come to the top.”

Morgan said a big key to future victories is consistency, especially on the offensive end.

“Offensively, we have been playing well in sports,” he said. “We have some stretches where we’ll run off nine or ten unanswered points. But we need to be more consistent. I guess one thing that we are really having to work on is not turning the ball over.”

According to Morgan, the team has to beat Northwestern Oklahoma, who won the title last year and has four starters returning.

The players also have high hopes for the rest of the season.

“Off the court we have real strong chemistry,” Armand Etame, junior, said. “As far as that goes, this is one of the best teams I have been on. On the court we want each other to succeed.”

The midterms in basketball are this Sunday and Tuesday. Those games set you up for the end of the season, and usually determine your postseason.

Lenny Bert, senior, is one of the team leaders by classification and by his position as point guard on the court.

“Right now we are going through some problems on the court, but eventually our chemistry will come together into a great team,” Bert said. “It’s kind of a hard process when new players come in, but I know it’s going to work eventually because we are so close off of their court.”

Players and coaches alike said the “Rhodes Rowdies”’ bias had a positive effect on the team.

[The crowd] is a big advantage. They keep us motivated,” Bert said. “Sometimes when we are playing a road game, and they are not there to support us, it’s us against the opponent’s crowd. It’s easy to go down then. But when we have a crowd here for ourselves, it’s easy for us to progress because we see they are behind us.”

“We can’t say enough about the ‘Rhodes Rowdies,’ ” Morgan said. “I tell our guys every year how lucky and how fortunate they are that we have that kind of student support. The fans do it in such a good way. You go to a lot of places and the fans are obscene and vulgar. Our students do a great job of being courteous and coming up with different stuff. I think there is a real relation:

ship there between the ‘Rhodes Rowdies’ and the team. Both groups spill their guts during the game. I mean, it’s almost as if the people in the stands are working as hard as we are. Basketball is just non-stop, constant action.”

So far this year, the team has drawn an attendance average of 2,296 fans.

Shannon Cooper and Steven Hovater, seniors, are the major forces behind the south end cheering section, better know as the “Bison Tea Party.”

“Steven was telling me how he wanted to be ready for the first game and he didn’t want to get hoarse, so he was going to bring a water bottle. I suggested we both bring bottles, but fill them with tea.”

From there it blossomed. The original 10 gallons brought for the first game turned into 120 gallons for the second, as the fans offered free tea to everyone in the Rhodes Memorial Field House, including President David Bucks, Jimmy Allen, Bible professor, and the referees.

“I think it helps the players and keeps the game fun,” Cooper said.

The Lady Bisons have been playing well in sports, and they are looking forward to the upcoming season.

By Robert Henson
Bison staff writer

The Lady Bisons had a rough time in their first home games of the season.

They defeated Southern Arkansas University (SAU) 87-66 on Tuesday, Nov. 30, but lost to Eastern New Mexico two days later 75-55. On Saturday, they dropped a heartbreaking 64-63 decision to Texas A&M. They re­sponded, however, with a win over Lyon College last Tuesday.

The losses to Eastern New Mexico and West Texas A&M were crossover conference games.

Even though they were against Lone Star conference opponents, they don’t count in the conference standings, which determine who qualifies for the conference tournament at the end of the year.

Between now and the end of the semester, the Lady Bisons have a few more opportunities for the fans to get out and support the team.

Tonight, they kick off the Lady Bison Classic against the University of Arkansas at Monticello at 8 p.m. Tomorrow night, the women will play Christian Brothers at 6 p.m.

Coach Brad Francis said he was pleased with the play of the team in their first home game against SAU last Tuesday.

He praised the team for getting solid contributions from many players and for playing much tighter defense in the second half, when they held SAU to only 23 points.

All five starters scored in double figures, led by Mindy Napier, sophomore, with 16. Jennifer Williams, junior, led the team in rebounds with nine and Krista Anderson, junior, led the team in assists with nine. Kelli Fager, junior, contributed nine points and eight rebounds off the bench.

However, the team ran into trouble last Thursday against Eastern New Mexico.

Francis said the biggest problem in the game was that the Bisons did not match the physical intensity their opponents brought to the game.

This showed most notably in the rebounding. The Zias out rebounded Harding 37-28 and came up with 13 offensive rebounds.

Saturday, the Lady Bisons held a slim lead against West Texas A&M late in the game. A three-point shot by West Texas with just a few seconds left proved to be the game winner as the Lady Bisons could not get the ball in bounds cleanly before time ran out on them.

Francis said the team responded well to the previous game by coming out with greater physical intensity. He said the game slipped away late when the team played the last six minutes without scoring.

“You can’t beat a good team when you don’t make a basket in the last six minutes and you turn the ball over more than 20 times in the game,” he said.

Leading the team were Stephanie Davis, junior, with 14 points and Susan Berry, freshman, who had a strong game off the bench with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Anderson once again led the team in assists with four.

The Lady Bisons responded Tuesday night, though, with a 94-74 win over Lyon College. Williams led all scorers and rebounders with 21 points and seven boards, while Davis and Anderson added 16 and 15 points, respectively.

“Complicating matters for the Lady Bisons this year is the loss of five key players from last year’s squad due to graduation,” said Robert Henson. “Only one starter returned from last season, so many of the players have had to adjust to new roles. However, Francis is confident the team will find success.”

“Many of the players now feel that this is their time to step up and contribute,” he said.

Francis said the team is getting better as the season progresses. He said the key for the year will be getting the job done late in games.

While there are no easy wins on the schedule, Francis said there are no games where he sees the team overmatched.

Your hometown pharmacist is right here in Searcy.

“We take good care of students.”

By Alva Linnwala
Bison staff writer

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Sports

Hokies to battle ‘Huskies in Bad Mascot Bowl

As the Bison sports editor, I spent countless hours at the begin­ning of the year try­ing to decide if some­thing should refer to our mascot as the Bison or the Bisons. One is the correct plu­rification of the word; the other is our “official” title.

After endless deliber­ation, I decided on Bison. Then I was overruled, and we went back to Bisons.

However, this problem piles in com­parison to those that are faced by some schools and their mas­cots. For example, I sympathize with the sports editor of the stu­dent newspaper at Campbell Uni­versity. I just think that reporting on the success of the Fighting Camels week after week would simply make me feel a little child­ish.

Small schools like Campbell are not the only ones with this problem, though. The four biggest bowl games this year each have a mascot that makes you want to tar

and feather the guy who came up with it. The Rose Bowl has the Badgers; the Orange Bowl has the Crimson Tide; the Fiesta Bowl has the Cornhuskers; and the Sugar Bowl has the Hokies. These may not seem as bad because we have become ac­customed to hear­ing them.

That is no excuse, though. It doesn’t matter how good a team is. If it has a stupid mascot, it de­serves to be ridiculed at every op­portunity. So I have compiled a list of categories to enable me to make fun of them more effectively and efficiently.

First, you have the “Let the col­orblind guy pick our mascot” cat­egory, featuring such teams as the Delaware Blue Hens, the Niagara Purple Eagles and the Syracuse Orangemen.

Next comes the “What is the world is a buckeye?” category, which includes the Akron Zips, the Manhattan Jaspers, the North Carolina Tarheels and the St. Bonaventure Bonnies.

Then comes the “Least intim­i­dating animal” mascots. This cat­egory showcases teams like the Cal-Irvine Anteaters, the Mis­souri-KC Kangaroos, the St. Peter’s Peascocks, the TCU Horned Frogs, the Texas-San Antonio Road Runners and the Young­town St. Penguins. The state of Oregon is fond of this category, as they have two participants – the Oregon Ducks and the Oregon St. Beavers.

Finally, we arrive at my favor­ite, the “What’s your favorite ad­jective?” category. Tulsa wasn’t happy being just the Hurricane, so they up­graded to the Golden Hur­ricanes. Hol­sla thought the Dutch­men was a little bland, so now they are the flying Dutch­men. Wake Forest said that the Deacons sounded a little too timid, so they became the Demon Deacons. And let’s not forget St. Mary’s, whose alumni simply were not satisfied with the Gaels. They’ll be happy to know that they moved up about 50 spaces on the stupidest mascot list when they changed to the Cal­loping Gaels.

It also seems that some schools got together with a rival simply to create a nice matchup. I can’t wait for the day when the Cal St. Northridge Matadors face the South Florida Bulls.

Another battle I am looking for­tward to is the Drexel Dragons against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. Or how about the North­eastern Arizona Lumberjacks ver­sus the Indiana St. Sycamores?

Art majors should be on the lookout for some good color combi­nations. One to watch for is the St. Francis Red Flash against the Kent Golden Flashes. Or maybe you would be more interested in the Texas Tech Red Raiders bat­­ting the Middle Tennessee St. Blue Raiders. Or maybe the Dartmouth Big Green facing the Cornell Big Red?

Just want to take a moment to thank whoever it was that decided on the Bison(s). While we will al­ways have the pluralization prob­lem, at least we won’t have to be ashamed of having the worst mas­cot in the country. Where does that title belong? Well, there are many contenders, but I think that I would have to go with the Whitman College Fighting Mis­sionaries!

Landon Horton
Bison sports editor

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2. Predict the exact score of the Sugar Bowl.
3. Place this form in the Sports Challenge Box (in the Post Office window) by curfew on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

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Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno St. vs. Utah
Mobile Alabama Bowl
TCU vs. East Carolina
Aloha Bowl
Arizona St. vs. Wake Forest
Oahu Bowl
Oregon St. vs. Hawaii
Motor City Bowl
Marshall vs. BYU
Alamo Bowl
Penn St. vs. Texas A&M
Holiday Bowl
Washington vs. Kansas St.
Music City Bowl
Kentucky vs. Syracuse
Peach Bowl
Clemson vs. Mississippi St.
Mieron PC Bowl
Virginia vs. Illinois
Humanitarian Bowl
Boise St. vs. Louisville

Sun Bowl
Oregon vs. Minnesota
Liberty Bowl
Southern Mississippi vs. Colorado St.
Independence Bowl
Mississippi vs. Oklahoma
Insight.com Bowl
Boston College vs. Colorado
Cotton Bowl
Texas vs. Arkansas
Outback Bowl
Georgia Tech vs. Miami
Citicus Bowl
Michigan St. vs. Florida
Rose Bowl
Wisconsin vs. Stanford
Orange Bowl
Alabama vs. Michigan
Fiesta Bowl
Tennessee vs. Nebraska

1st team All-LSC
Jeremy Thompson
Jamael Harris
2nd team All-LSC
Luke Cullins
Ryan Blount
Greg Taylor
Said Perez
Andrew Patton
Hon. Mention All-LSC
Gerald Payne

Club Volleyball
Men’s Large Club
A- TNT
B- Chi Sigs
C- Chi Sigs
D- TNT

Men’s Small Club
A- Alpha Tau
B- Delta Chi
C - King’s Men

Women’s
A - Shanti
B - Zeta Rho
C - Zeta Rho #2
D - Shanti

Football Honors
1st team All-LSC
Marc Fager
Jeremy Thompson
Jamael Harris
2nd team All-LSC
Luke Cullins
Ryan Blount
Greg Taylor
Said Perez
Andrew Patton
Hon. Mention All-LSC
Gerald Payne

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