SAC brings two in a row

Blessid Union of Souls: second noncountry act to entertain Harding crowds this school year

By Yavonda Fletcher
Bison copy editor

Blessid Union of Souls burst onto the pop music scene with "I Believe," at a time when most Harding students were still in high school. Six years and several hits later, they are bringing their eclectic rock sound to the Benson stage.

The concert, on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m., is part of the band's promotion for their new album, Walking Off the Buzz, which includes the hits, "Hey Leonardo" (She Likes Me For Me) and "Standing at the Edge of the Earth."

Best known from Walking Off the Buzz, they will perform hits from their platinum selling debut album Home and their sophomore effort Blessid Union of Souls. Some of the songs they will perform are "Light in Your Eyes," "I Wanna Be There," "Let Me Be The One," "Oh Virginia," "All Along," as well as their smash debut hit, "I Believe."

Hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio, Blessid Union is Eliot Sloan, lead vocals and piano; Jeff Howe, guitar; C.P. Roth, keyboards, bass and harmonica; Eddie Hedges, drums and percussion; and Tony Clark, bass and guitar. They have been together for five years. That time has not always been rosy; however. In five years, the group has been with four different record companies. Instead of splintering the group, Clark said that it brought them closer together.

"As we've played out more, the band has solidified," Clark said on the group's website (www.blessidunion.com). "At this point in time, the music isn't just influenced by one or two band members, it's influenced by all of us."

"Some people will probably say that Walking Off the Buzz is a new sound for Blessid Union. But those are the people who have never seen the band live. We're still the same band as we've always been, it's just that if you haven't seen our show, you might not be aware of it."

"Over the past five years, this self-described "nooey, midwestern band" has built up a significant fan base throughout the United States and on this campus.

"I have been listening to their music for years, but I have never gotten the chance to see them in concert, so I am really excited they are performing here," Jeni Allen, senior, said, "I think it will be a great concert."

Many students, even those who only know Blessid Union from the radio, are still excited they are coming to campus.

"It's about time we get something besides Diamond Rio or Clint Black," Ryan Cook, sophomore, said. "This will definitely be a welcome change."

Blessid Union is the second rock group the Student Activities Committee has invited to perform at Harding this year. After the success of the Better Than Ezra concert, the SAC was looking for another rock group to bring to campus, according to Jim Miller, director of student activities.

"I am excited about having a popular and talented rock group perform at Harding University," Miller said. "They are a good, clean group, and I think they will give an entertaining show."

Tickets went on sale Tuesday and will be sold on weekdays from noon to 6 p.m. at the Benson ticket window. They may also be purchased the night of the concert. Prices are $10 for students and $12 for the general public. Tickets can be ordered over the phone at 279-4709.

ASI invites Oklahoma governor to campus

By Jamey Jones
Bison staff writer

The American Studies Institute kicks off this semester's Distinguished Lecture series this week with Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma. The lecture will be on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Benson Auditorium.

Speaking on "Education and Economic Development," Keating will recount his experiences with educational reforms and relate how higher education helps raise a state's economic development. "Keating has had a certain amount of success with his educational reforms in Oklahoma," Dr. Bob Reely, associate executive director of the American Studies Institute, said. "His plan has been a national model for many state governors."

Elected governor in 1994, Keating has instituted a number of reforms in Oklahoma during his tenure, according to Oklahoma's government site (www.state.ok.us). Among these are education reform, which set up charter schools and increased the high school graduation requirements; mental health care reform, which allowed for community-based facilities to compete with large treatment centers; and workers' compensation reform, which resulted in the appointment of fair, impartial judges.

In 1972, Keating won a seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and two years later he moved to the state senate. Ronald Reagan named Keating the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma in 1981. He also served as the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Associate Attorney General and Acting Deputy Secretary for the Housing and Urban Development agency.

Having served time in Washington, Keating was the highest ranking Oklahoman in both the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Governor Mike Huckabee and his wife, Leah, will host a private reception in honor of Keating and his tenure, according to Jim Keating, governor of Oklahoma, is scheduled to speak on "Education and Economic Development" as part of the ASI series, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Benson Auditorium. Keating implemented the largest broad-based tax cut in Oklahoma's history during his six years in office.

What is going on...

Nonordained "pastors" in Tokyo are exploiting the Japanese fascination with Christian weddings, according to a Reuters news service report. Justification: the Bible condemns the marriage between a believer and a nonbeliever, but not between nonbelievers.

Inko-mask-wearing Floyd Brown, 24, was charged with robbing a Holiday Inn in Anchorage, Ala., last November. Apparently, when entering the hotel, Floyd failed to notice the 60 police officers just off the lobby in a law-enforcement training conference as well as the manque in the front of the building that advertised the conference.

Police in Dhaka, Bangladesh rescued two spider monkeys that were chained up in a drug dealer's house. To reduce human intervention in drug sales, police said, signs ordered customers to pay the monkeys in either of two denominations, which the monkeys could distinguish by color, and then fetch the appropriate quantity.
Opinions

Just some thoughts... Snow falling on Searcy

Last Thursday, amidst the early-senior chaos of exam preparations, paper-writing, and just general world-wide chaos, our campus, and most of the state for that matter, came to a screeching halt to watch a truly remarkable event: snow falling on Searcy. Ok, so for those of us hailing from northern and western states, snow falling on asphalt may not seem as truly divine of an event as snow falling on ski slopes. But I admit that I found myself anxiously awaiting those first few flakes as I listened to the constant weather reports on the radio. In fact, when the snow fell, my three roommates and I were so excited that we immediately bundled up and headed outdoors. Papers and tests for the next day were immediately put aside in order to experience such a rare event. For two hours, the tour of us trod on city streets through the snow, stopping only to make snow angels and snap a few pictures on mounds of sublimated water vapor into ice crystals below freezing. Along the way, several drivers pulled their vehicles to the side and offered us a quick ride out of the snow. Yet, each time we gratefully declined explaining that we wanted to be in the snow.

In fact, most Harding students took advantage of the rare weather and ventured outdoors, despite the low temperatures. On the front lawn, snow became the source of friendly ammunition, as snowballs were created and thrown. Some students even ventured to the outskirts of Searcy to try their hands at sledding. Although Friday's morning classes were held as planned, every moment between classes was a chance to play. Until last Thursday, I have only seen snow in Searcy one time — a similar January day three years ago during my freshman year. I do not expect to see it again before I graduate in May.

But for now, I am enjoying the last few patches that are left in shady spots on the ground. Next week, I have several major tests so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
Celebrities can effectively represent voters

In today’s celebrity culture, the terms Hollywood and politics are practically synonymous with each other. Individuals who hold our gaze on the TV and movie screens in the past century are grasping our attention in the political arena today — and they are successful on both sides.

Whoever dares to say these “big name” people not survive in the ferocious den of politicians is blind to those who have conquered the task before.

Bill Clinton, a former professional wrestler, was initially popular for his acting roles, particularly westerns, in movies such as Submarine D-1 in 1937 and The Killers in 1946. He was then elected governor of California in 1966 and was so admired by the people he won reelection in 1970.

Our featured celebrity, former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura, was starred with Cher in a 1970’s TV comedy variety show, left show business to become mayor of Palm Springs, Calif., and was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Congressman from the state of California.

Today, Hillary Clinton, wife of President Bill Clinton, is running for Senate of New York and is running for the presidency, may be known to many because of his father. However, it is not possible to run a successful presidential campaign based only on family name. He obviously has something more that appeals to voters.

Awake to this reality: everyone is an actor, including those individuals that we call “professional politicians.” Anyone can put on a front and make you believe their promising words. It takes actions in office to prove whether or not they are capable of committing to those promises. When viewed in the public eye, politicians obviously play a different character than they are in real life, just as actors do in the movies.

Amidst the glamour of stardom and the Academy Awards, society has become blind to the fact that celebrities are humans, capable of rational thought, and that maybe they do have enough brains to become successful politicians. So what if they are a popular name and face? This name recognition gives them an advantage over the other guy whom you have never seen or heard before. I think that makes them a viable candidate.

At what point did we make these wild notions that celebrities were incapable of involvement in governmental affairs? What Washington really needs are individuals such as these: individuals who are looked up to and admired by all Americans. Maybe they are the ones we need is somebody really famous to increase the staggering voter percent rate.

Americans are already sick of politics and politicians as it is; if politicians are not doing the trick, let us turn to those in a different type of spotlight. Celebrities have brains and ideas too. Let them use them.

Facing the Issues

Can celebrities successfully bridge the gap between politics and publicity?

Throughout history, there have always been some “big name” people running for political office. However, lately these names have become larger and are appearing more often. Jesse Ventura, Hillary Clinton and George W. Bush are the names we have been hearing during the last few months.

Ventura, a former professional wrestler, was elected governor of Minnesota in the fall of 1998. With some of the comments he has made, you would think he was still a professional wrestler instead of a public official.

Was this man elected for his ability to do a good job or because he has been on television in his wrestling attire? Besides the damage done by his name through the mud, what has he done for Minnesota?

In the October 11 issue of Time, Ventura said, “It’s good to be king. The best thing is that there is no one in this state who can tell me what to do.”

Who voted for this guy? According to Time, Ventura only got 37% of the votes. I wonder why.

The media has such an impact on the way people think. Just because a candidate has been on television does not mean that he or she will be an effective leader. The candidates should have some knowledge of the law. But lets face it, in America it is not what you know, it is who you know.

Jody Knight
Bison staff writer

“Americans need to start thinking about who would do the best job, rather than whose name has appeared in the newspapers the most.”

Hillary Keller, junior
“Yes, as long as they aren’t former pro wrestlers.”

Lindsey McMillion, freshman
“No, they should stick to what they are good at.”
Bridging the age gap:
College Church’s Thursday school attracts students from all walks of life

By Kelli Fager
Bison staff writer

Thursday morning and the bell is about to ring. The teachers anxiously wait at their doors, while the children look for their classrooms with excitement and anticipation. As the last few students struggle in, the teachers begin the morning with a devotion.

Since the 1970s, the College Church of Christ has sponsored the weekly ritual of Thursday School, an educational program for children ages 2-5.

The program is held each Thursday morning from 9:11:15 a.m. The curriculum is designed to improve the children’s social skills and prepare them for a larger classroom environment.

The program is set up for the children to rotate through arts and crafts, music, outdoor play, snacks and Bible lesson stations, according to Karen Chalenburg, director of Thursday School.

“It’s a wonderful program,” she said. “It helps kids slowly work into going to school.”

There are approximately 25-30 volunteer teachers and helpers that work with 85 children. Of those volunteers, eight are Harding students.

Those students take two hours out of their schedules every Thursday to help teach young children about Christ.

After hearing an announcement in chapel, Julia Henderson, senior, and Trenton Ramsey, junior, volunteered to help. They have worked at the school for two semesters.

“I like being with the kids,” Henderson said. “I know they need people like us. It’s a great way to spend two hours each week.”

Ramsey added, “I enjoy being around the kids, and it’s definitely a good break from college life.”

Chalenburg said she is excited about having the Harding students around. She emphasized their importance in the classroom and expressed how they not only help the children, but help themselves as well.

“They do a good job and it gives them good experience in the classroom,” she said.

Jeanne Burks, mother of 4-year-old Madison Burks, agreed with Chalenburg.

“The college kids work great with the little ones,” Burks said.

“I think it’s great that they all do it voluntarily.”

Burks added that her daughter loves her teachers at the Thursday School, and she looks forward to going each week.

“I think the best part is the innocence of the children,” Henderson said. “I love being with them. There are some days when my alarm clock goes off and I don’t want to roll out of bed. But once I get there, I’m glad I did. I definitely would like to work there again next year.”

Thursday School will be looking for more helpers again next semester. Anyone interested should contact the College Church.

Men’s club prepares for reunion of ‘Titan’ proportions

By Stephen Jerkins
Bison staff writer

Long before Bud Adams ever considered relocating and renaming his Houston Oilers, there were the Titans.

More specifically, Titans was formed in the fall of 1977, after 40 men decided the campus needed another men’s social club. The Titans were an offshoot of the former club Mobicans.

However, for all practical purposes, they began on their own, according to Jim and Evlyn Daniel, sponsors for 19 years.

But it was not until the spring of 1986 when the practice of a Groundhog Day celebration became one of the defining trademarks of Titan’s social club.

Due to the lack of time between Thanksgiving break and “dead week” to plan a Christmas event, Titan’s members searched the calendar for the next major holiday to celebrate. Groundhog Day seemed the most convenient and appealing.

“The groundhog is certainly the most underrated of all land mammals,” T.T. Whitehead, the club’s president, said. “I mean, at a single glance of his shadow, this creature can manipulate earth’s weather patterns. It’s up to him — he can either end winter or prolong it for six weeks. It’s easy to understand why Titans began this tradition.”

The annual Groundhog Day, which consists of a feast and club talent show, is a ritual that the club celebrates with exuberant voracity.

Tomorrow’s celebration is no exception. In fact, it will be commemorated with extra exuberance, according to Rocky Wyatt, activities director.

For the first time in the club’s 25-year history, Titans is hosting a reunion for its alumni. The brain-child of Wyatt, this reunion of “Titan proportions” has consumed months of planning.

With the assistance of the Alumni Office, Wyatt and the Daniels mailed out more than 450 letters to as many former members, queens and sponsors as possible before Christmas Break.

Nearly 100 have responded.

“For the amount of time given, we’ve gotten an excellent response,” Evlyn said. “From charter members and their families to guys who graduated last year, the replies cover a good spectrum of the club’s existence.”

In addition to the normal feast of the Groundhog Day celebration, a portion of the night will focus on the history of Titans as former members and officers share part of the club’s heritage and reminisce on the past.

The main purpose of the reunion, according to Wyatt, is to throw a final bash in honor of the Daniels, who are retiring at the end of this year.

They joined the organization in the spring of 1981 after some coaxing from their two sons David and Jeff, both of whom were club members at the time.

Thanks to the Daniels and Dr. Phil Brown, Dr. Tim and Barbara Duke, the club’s other sponsors, Wyatt believes the reunion will be a huge success.

“It’s an honor for me to help out with such an event. I know it will be an awesome chance for the current members and myself to take part in Titan’s heritage.”

Titan’s Groundhog Day is tomorrow in Sherwood, Ark.
Students plan Spring Break campaign to Venezuela

By Rachel Wilson

Spring Break campaigns are a major fixture of life at Harding. Most of them head to cities in the U.S., although occasionally one will brave the Canadian cold or enjoy the hot, Jamaican sun. Usually, due to air fare costs, South America is out of the question — until now.

For the first time, a campaign group is headed to Venezuela for spring break. Under the direction of Ava Conley, professor of spanish, who has consistently taken groups into various parts of Mexico and South America during both spring and summer breaks since 1978, the group will target Valera, Venezuela, a city of 500,000 people and no church.

Working in conjunction with congregations and missionaries from other parts of the country, the group will help canvas the city and enroll people in Bible correspondence courses that will be taught during the summer. Valera was initially chosen because the brethren of Venezuela saw a need for a congregation there. However, because of the recent mud-slides, which brought disaster to the country, the campaigners will also participate in relief efforts in Caracas, a city to the northeast of Valera.

The congregation in Caracas cases for 70 families, including 133 children, who lost everything during the December mud-slides. The relief efforts by Christians in the area have already resulted in several conversions, according to Conley.

“These people are needing a family and are more receptive because of the transition,” she said.

“Trip will change your life,” Danielle Rubin, senior, said. “It’s easy to make friends with people and really bond with them.”

Consultant with the group is headed to Venezuela for a summer campaign. This year’s Spring Break campaign will work in the city of Valera, and help with mudslide relief in the city of Caracas.

“Many people have lost everything to the Venezuelan disaster victims.” Michelle Watkins, sophomore, said.

Although a background in Spanish is helpful, it is not required to participate on the campaign.

For more information, contact Conley at extension 4484, or the Foreign Language Dept.

Channel 16 jumps back on track as broadcast signal returns Tuesday

By Bryan Creech

With the broadcasting of TV-16 News on air, more students are needed to help in the endeavor. Conley said the group also needs assistance in raising money for the Venezuelan disaster victims.

“We’re hoping this fixes all the problems.” Conley said. “We want to encourage the local brethren in outreach to victims of the mud-slides, and we want to canvas the city of Valera and enroll people in Bible correspondence courses.”

This accounts for the extensive period of downtime, including lack of live broadcast capabilities for TV-16.

“We’ve had problems setting up with the university as a whole, and the entire system is being re-done,” said Don Hodges, general manager of WCC. “We’re hoping this fixes all the problems.”

The planned return of Channel 16 began with a broadcast of the cable signal. Harding is only one of three locations to take advantage of this new fiber optic system; Scearcy’s local programming station and Scearcy High School are benefiting as well.

After Harding’s system is fully upgraded, the rest of the community will follow.

“The upgrading of WCC’s signal is one of many upgrades occurring across the nation.” Hodges said.

“The trip will change your life, even if you aren’t interested in missions,” Conley said.

With the broadcasting of TV-16 News on air, more students are needed to fill positions, and the department is now accepting applications, some of which are scholarship positions.

“I’m glad that I’m able to be part of TV-16 News now that it’s broadcast again,” said Josh Moore, junior.

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Located in the Student Center.
To be or not to be?

Student production of 'Hamlet' opens in Little Theater tonight at 7 p.m.

By Elizabeth R. Smith & Kelly Carter

For Marcus Neely, senior, the famous line "to be or not to be?" was not just a question, but a dream to play one of theater's most famous roles.

Tonight, as Harding's production of 'Hamlet' opens at 7 p.m., Neely will finally have the chance to realize that dream.

Under the direction of Robin Miller, associate professor of communication; Jenny Moses, graduate student, who plays Queen Gertrude; and Dustin Bartee, senior, who plays King Claudius; will join Neely as the stars of the show.

"This is a strong cast, full of wonderful people," Miller said. "But the main focus is to entertain and to educate the audience."

Neely and Moses have been working on the play all year. Both are producing the play as part of their senior seminar requirements, which has meant long hours working on everything from backdrops to costumes.

"I draw from my personal life," Neely said. "But it is important to remember that there is a difference between what I feel inside, and what Shakespeare envisioned when he wrote the play."

Moses noted the difficulty of acting in a play with such a tragic and dark premise.

"Hamlet is a tragedy, it gives us a serious look at people, and the way we all deal with relationships," she said. The play is set in 1000 A.D. in Denmark. The cast will follow the Shakespearian dialogue, although Miller adjusted the script for Harding's performance.

The costumes will reflect a rustic flavor, rather than the traditional medieval garb, according to Bartee. As part of this, each male in the production grew a beard for their parts.

"The portrayal (through the costumes) is more rough and rugged than proper," Bartee said.

Other changes will include a shortening of the overall play. Although the original version lasts about four hours, this production will only span two-and-a-half hours with an intermission.

According to Neely, the story of Hamlet is a complex journey through a broad range of human emotions.

"Expect an emotional trip to scary places," Neely said. "You will feel better off for having gone."

The show will run through Feb. 12, except Wednesday night.

All tickets are $4 and can be bought before each show in the Reynolds Center for Music and Communication. Due to limited seating, Miller encourages everyone to show up early.

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279-4341
The Bison baseball team practices on the diamond was not possible due to the recent snow. We will be tough to women will face Henderson State demonstrate some of their tal­- ing to Elliott. This season will be the last as either the Lone Star Con­ference. The team hopes to leave their mark on the conference be­fore moving to the Gulf South Conference next year. We're hoping to do very well in the conference this year," Elliott said. "Everyone is excited about the move to the Gulf South Con­ference."
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Here's a chance for you, Joe or Jane Harding, to match wits with the winners of each game and the exact score of the tie-breaker. Then place this form in the box for the chance to win a large challenge box in the post office window by curfew tonight. (Limit one entry per person.)

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NBA
☐ Houston at Detroit
☐ Miami at New York
☐ San Antonio at Utah
☐ Seattle at Phoenix

NHL All-Star Game
☐ North America vs. The World

NCAA Men's Basketball
☐ Harding at Ouachita Baptist
☐ Arkansas at Auburn
☐ North Carolina St. at Maryland
☐ Kansas at Oklahoma St.
☐ Ohio St. at Michigan
☐ Connecticut at Michigan St.
☐ Kentucky at Florida

NFC All-Star Game
☐ AFC vs. NFC

* Editor's picks are in bold.

Last Week's Winner: Matt Reaves

Sports

By Eric Barnes
Bison staff writer

Ads disappoint in Super Bowl XXXIV

By Paul Vilela
Bison staff writer

What a game, what a game! Super Bowl XXXIV was one of the most exciting and most memorable Super Bowls that has been played in recent years.

The two evenly matched football teams took it down to the wire as the Rams stopped the Titans on the one-yard line. Games just don't get much better than that.

However, did anyone else notice what was not so great about the Super Bowl this year? No, I am not talking about Faith Hill's rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." She could have just stood there and pleased the majority of the mostly male audience.

No, I am not even talking about the lame halftime show with that new rocker Enrique Iglesias, and the ever so popular, Phil Collins.

No, I am referring to the horrible contests that I remember, but even of those I only remember the humor behind them instead of the product the ad was promoting.

This is where I ask the question, "What is the point of an advertisement class, the goal of an ad to make the audience aware of the company, product or service it is advertising?"

It seems to me the people who came up with most of this year's ads need to enroll to basic advertising classes, because the only thing they are doing successfully is wasting their client's or company's money.

Then again, maybe the companies that had poor advertisements are not concerned about the cost of their Super Bowl ads, because they have "money coming out the wazoo."

Bisons getting 'on track' for 2000

By Paul Vilela
Bison staff writer

The Harding track team is still out early fighting through the uglier hurdles in the outdoor season, but that event does not take place during the indoor season, so the team will continue to strive for excellence at a meet today in Lawrence, Kansas.

Coach Bryan Phillips said he is optimistic at the start of the young season.

"We have three All-Americans this year that are hoping to qualify for nationals: Jeff Langat, junior, in the 4x800 relay; Jerry Maritim, senior, in the 5,000 and 3,000 meter; and Albert Tabut, senior, in the 800 and 1,500 meter."

"We have two types of training," Langat said. "One day we will have a distance run of ten miles, which lasts about an hour, and the next day we'll have a speed workout. We switch off every other day."

Many of the runners had high praise for Phillips. "Coach Phillips is a good guy, a good coach and a good Christian," Langat said. "Sometimes he's more nervous than we are at a meet, which is encouraging."

"He's a very encouraging guy with high expectations, but that will only make us stronger," Erin Elliott, senior, said. "He has a lot of energy and tries to keep us on track. No run intended."

Elliott runs the 400 meter hurdles in the outdoor season, but since that event does not take place during the indoor season, she currently runs the regular 400 meter.

Jake Smith, freshman, comes from nearby Clinton High School in Clinton, Ark., where he was the only distance runner on his team. He, along with the other newcomers to the squad, are having to adjust to collegiate athletics.

"College track is a lot harder than high school track," Smith said. "We run about twenty miles more per week, and the distance coach pushes us harder. It's intense, but it will pay off."

Last Friday, the meet at the Arkansas State Bluff was cancelled due to snow and rescheduled for later in the year.

Upcoming Home Games:

Bison Baseball
Fri. 2-11 3 p.m.
vs. Williams Baptist
Sat. 2-12 1 p.m.
vs. Southwest Baptist

Bison Basketball
Thurs. 2-17 8 p.m.
vs. East Central

Lady Bison Basketball
Thurs. 2-17 6 p.m.
vs. East Central

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The banquet will be held at the Searcy High School Gullards Annex Cafeteria February 21, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for $5 at First Community, First Security, Regions, and Simmons First Banks. For more information, call Philip Williams at 279-8536.

Come and meet Houston Nutt of Arkansas Razorback Football

Don't miss this opportunity to visit with Coach Nutt and hear first-hand about the Cotton Bowl, as well as the latest recruiting news.

The banquet will be held at the Searcy High School Gullards Annex Cafeteria February 21, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for $5 at First Community, First Security, Regions, and Simmons First Banks. For more information, call Philip Williams at 279-8536.

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