Up With People

International musical group to perform tomorrow night

By Rachel Wilson

Up With People will return to Harding on Saturday to perform its new musical, "ROADS," at 7:30 p.m. in the Benson Auditorium.

The cast for the musical includes 150 people between the ages of 17-27 who hail from 20 nations.

"ROADS, the new Up With People musical, is a high-energy, electrifying celebration of the emergence of youth," according to the group's public relations materials.

"Many of the songs and dances in the show are familiar to audiences and are performed in English, while others are sung in other languages.

Tickets are $7 for students and seniors and $10 for adults, and they may be purchased at First Security Bank's main branches, Kroger, The Daily Citizen or the Benson ticket office the night of the show.

Prior to the performance, there will be a dress rehearsal and open house at 4 p.m. in the Benson.

"It opened my eyes, and I began to develop a point of view about the world and life," said an event coordinator, "Seary is one of the stops on the 2000 Up With People tour. Afterwards, they will travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, This year, the cast will perform in approximately 80 cities on three continents. Currently, there are four other Up With People casts traveling around the world.

Tommy Jackson, editor of the Daily Citizen, helped organize the group's stop in Searcy because of their positive message.

"They have a great show that promotes individuality and a fun spirit that people can bring their whole family to enjoy." Jackson said.

During their three-day visit to Searcy, students will live with host families and get involved in addressing the needs of Searcy by working on local community service projects.

Friday's performance will be broadcast on TV-16 anchors.

"Our challenge is to entertain, yet convey a deeper message," Wesley Dixon, Jr., chairman of the Up With People board, said.

Up With People was founded in 1965, and incorporated in 1968 as a not-for-profit educational organization.


TV-16 anchor teams begin broadcasting

By Jamey Jones

"Live at Five," Channel 16's nightly news program, is back on the air with a new cast.

The anchor team on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays is Sandra Kirk, freshman, and Whitney Kemp, sophomore, bringing the news, James Canterbury, junior, with the weather and Erin Kemp, sophomore, with sports.

The team for Tuesdays and Thursdays is Adia Bess, freshman, and Rachel Harless, junior, bringing the news, Adrian Steed, senior, with the weather and Erin Kemp, sophomore, with sports.

Although broadcast journalism may seem like a tough business in the "real world," here at Harding, it is little easier to get a foot in the door.

"It's really a simple process," Dr. Dutch Hoggatt, associate professor of communication and one of the teachers who oversees the television station, said. "We accept applications from students, according to a press release, according to Myers. She also said they are looking for new faces and ideas.

Some students agreed that the news process was not difficult.

"They [tryouts] were very relaxed and fairly easy," Kemp said.

Others, however, believe there is a little uneasy about the auditions.

"It was a one-time teleprompter reading which included the kind of news. I know it is not a fair test, but not too bad," Harless said.

"It is a good experience regardless of whether you get the part.

"Weather anchors have a more extensive tryout, according to Steed.

"You have to do a sample weather segment and show them that you have an idea of how to point on the chroma wall [the wall where the maps are displayed graphically]," he said.

The students had a variety of reasons why they wanted to be TV-16 anchors.

"I want to do this television work and I gave it a tryout," Kirk said.

"I want to be a journalist, so hopefully this will give me more experience for the future," Steed, however, had different motives.

"I took Dr. [David] Cole's earth science class a year ago, and as a direct result of that class, I decided I wanted to be a meteorologist," he said.

The stories that are presented on "Live at Five" are real stories. These stories are rewritten from newspapers by students in local news, including Seary, through a site.

In addition, the Weather anchors also gather their own material.

"I watch the weather channel and steal all I can from my favorite meteorologist, Kristina Abernathy says," Sted said. "Then I get all the data (temperatures, wind speed and direction, etc.) from the Internet."


What is going on...?

Lynnwood Anthony Vrba, 56, of Waco, Texas, was sentenced to 60 years in prison after his ninth drunken-driving conviction. What's latest incident happened after he was seen in front of a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agent.

Blake Topping, 13, a foster child from Olympia, Wash., whose state caseworker gambled away the $7900 proceeds from the sale of the boy's prize-wining calf at the local county fair, was presented with a check for $3,500 raised by the Department of Social and Health Services employees and other state workers who learned of Topping's situation.

Larry Leece, an accounting teacher in Redding, Calif., who always told his students that when they get rich they should show their appreciation by buying him a Porsche, received one valued at $50,000 from Robert Sullivan of Kentucky, a former Shawnee College student who wanted to honor Leake for his faith and support.

Dawn Marie Spinkle, 29, of Helena, Mont., was convicted of endangering her unborn child by taking amphetamines, was ordered not to get pregnant for 10 years. In order to ensure that this measure is carried out, Spinkle is required to take a pregnancy test every two months and share the results with authorities.
Opinions

Just some thoughts... You can always go home

Sometimes everyone needs to go home, at least for a while.

Since my freshman year, I have returned to the same cabin in the woods for every school break. During each of these visits I always drive “out to the country” at least once, to visit my grandparents. It is during those times of sipping lemonade at the oak kitchen table and snooping around my grandfather’s saw-dust covered workshop that I have been able to recall childhood memories — memories of snow sledding and exploring, of Christmases and birthdays.

Although my visits follow the same schedule each time, I always come away with something different and new that I have learned about my family as well as myself.

When visiting, I get to visit that house, in a sense I return to my roots, to my heritage.

The Israeli government and some private donors are trying to provide every Jewish-American with that same opportunity on a much larger scale.

According to an article by Naomi Morris in the Feb. 19 issue of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, a foundation known as Birthright, founded by Theodore Herzl, is attempting to send every young Jewish-American to visit Israel.

The program is being funded largely by Charles Bronfman, a Seattle-based businessman, and Michael Steinhardt, who both donated $9 million to the effort. Israeli taxpayers will also spend about $70 million so that 50,000 young people can spend 10 days in Israel.

So far, 4,000 students have gone on the trip, and have cited the visit to Israel as the most important factor in determining their Jewish identity.

This stands in stark contrast to Morris’ mention of the estimated 85 percent of Jewish Americans who will never see their native homeland.

“Israel is a rich country. We can help Americans,” Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Benin, one of the originators of the Birthright concept, said. “I think that this is a real victory of Zionism if Israel is in a position to help world Jewry.”

Birthright also hopes to set up a bank account for every Jewish-American born in the future, according to Morris. This account will contain $180 and will be used to fund trips to Israel.

The Israeli government and Birthright leaders also hope that this program will help to begin reestablishing foreign relations with Jews internationally.

“Why can’t the world,” Benin said, “but it’s the best investment for the future — and the cheapest.”

So while Israel may not be any more of a home to Jewish Americans than Italy, Germany, China or Africa may be to some us, it is an opportunity for thousands to discover and explore their roots.

Israel is a country and a land teeming with history and heritage. The country is a holy jewel for three of the world’s major religions, and yet it seems to be constantly wrought with conflict and tragedy.

Perhaps this opening of doors will encourage students of all nations to extend their hands across the borders and appreciate this country, and many others, for what they are truly worth.

The Church of the Ascension stands atop the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. As part of the Birthright program, Jewish-Americans will have the opportunity to travel Israel, their homeland, for free.

The price of freedom a fading memory for many

Recently, as I was reading through some issues of The Bison from the 1940s, noticed an interesting trend: among the local advertisers promoting announcements for the United States Navy.

These were joined in 1942 by an article that included the addresses of the young men from Harding, who had enlisted in the armed services.

As I continued to flip through the pages of Harding’s past, I noticed articles about chapel speakers who presented lectures on the war effort and a letter printed from a Harding drafter stationed in England.

And then I came across it.

In late 1942, a headline announced that one of Harding’s young men had been shot down over the Pacific Ocean. He had left Harding to enlist the year before and had just been killed in the service of his country.

I stared at that article for the longest time, just trying to imagine and try to grasp the idea that it conveyed, but I found that I just could not.

Such a thing is so foreign to my own experience, so far away, is for most of us, that I could not completely absorb it all. Our generation cannot even begin to comprehend the concept of dying for our country.

Sure, we are surrounded by death on television and on the movies, but somehow this is different.

Even though I was raised in a military family, where the concept of war has always been very familiar to me, nothing has ever spoken to me like that short, simple article from 1942.

Our generation is accused of being apathetic, and I must admit that such an accusation is justified. We suffer from disunity and a lack of direction — but why is that? I am reminded of the old saying that “every generation has its war.”

Indeed, each American generation can be defined by the conflict that nation was facing during their time. Our great-grandparents had World War I, our grandparents were brought up in the face of World War II, our parents were born during the Korean War and raised on images and reports of Vietnam.

Even those who did not support the war effort had the cause of peace to conceive of such a world view, that I cannot even begin to assimilate this.

We are facing a similar conflict today. Nothing unites a people like a common enemy, but we have never had our freedom threatened by such a dominating menace. We have no universal bond through a cause. For our parents and grandparents, apathy was not an option.

So by enjoying the luxury of a life without fear, we are paying the price of becoming a generation without cohesion.

With nothing to define us or give us commonality, and with no clear sense of national and generational identity, we are ultimately facing being canonized as a historical oblivion.

We are recognized as being the generation who experienced nothing, who fought for nothing, who cared for nothing, who worried about nothing and who stood for nothing. We are the product of nothing.

We are now enjoying the fruits of the labors of all the previous generations. We are close to their goal of world peace than ever before — yet our generation has taken this for granted.

Without any kind of collective experience or unifying struggle, we are finding ourselves not caring simply because we have never had to care.

No record of World War II has moved me as much as that 56-year-old piece of paper. No matter how many specials I see on A&E, how many books I read, or how many times I watch Saving Private Ryan, I will never be able to grasp the magnitude of that world. It was when I realized that our generation cannot begin to conceive of such a world view, that I truly understood what we are missing.

Those people were driven by a sense of commitment and dedication to a cause that we cannot fully comprehend or truly appreciate.

Meredith Killed
In Bomber Crash

Robert Meredith, a former student, lost his life in a bomber crash on the East Coast Friday afternoon. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp in March 1941 while at Harding. Funeral services were held at his home in Thyllairia, Miss. While at Harding, Robert was a member of the Tagma Club.

He married Oretha Nichols, who is now living in Alexandria, La.

While here, Oretha was a member of the Arkansas Club, secretary of Alpha Theta Club, a member of the Alpha Theta Honor Society and its secretary, and her name was recorded in the pages of “Who’s Who in the American Colleges and Universities.”

Editor’s note: This article was found in the April 7, 1942 issue of ‘The Bison’ and is mentioned in Tiffany Yecke’s column.
Dangers remain minimal for commercial flyers

With the recent crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 off the coast of California, new questions are being raised about the safety of flying.

Not only is the Federal Aviation Administration concerned about the safety of commercial aircraft, but now many passengers, especially frequent flyers, are beginning to wonder if the risks of flying are just great. However, due to the heavy media coverage of the recent string of airline crashes involving planes serving North America, people have been given a false impression about the safety of flying.

Immediately following the crash of Flight 261, the media swarmed to the scene. After all, it is not everyday that such a tragic and news breaking event takes place. However, the fact that a news media outlet such as CNN would focus the better part of two days speculating about the cause of the crash is somewhat appalling.

When speculation takes place, as it does about the cause of the Flight 261 crash, viewers begin to be overloaded with information and can often become confused as to what is truly factual. In a case involving an air crash, such reporting can inspire panic and give people who fly each year, this is a relatively small number.

In fact, Alaska Airlines alone serves more than 12 million customers each year, and reports this [Flight 261] to be the first major accident since 1976 and only the third in the airline's history. In addition, numbers from AirSafe.com indicate that the Boeing MD80 family of planes, which includes Flight 261, have made over 20 million flights and had only eight incidents involving fatalities. This means that only one out of every 2.5 million MD80 flights will end up crashing.

Despite the statistical proof that air travel is indeed safe, many people are still nervous about flying. According to AirSafe.com, there are several steps a traveler can take to insure a safer flight: taking flights with nonstop routings, paying attention to the preflight briefing and choosing to fly on larger aircraft. It is also important for passengers to ask questions about the airline's safety history, as well as the safety record of the specific plane they are flying on.

Like every mode of transportation, flying will continue to have occasional accidents. However, with the FAA placing stricter safety regulations on airlines, a decrease of fatal plane crashes might be seen in the future.

"Like every mode of transportation, flying will continue to have occasional accidents. However, with the FAA placing greater safety restrictions on airlines a decrease of fatal crashes might be seen in the future."

Facing the Issues

In light of recent airline crashes, is air travel still safe?

More safety regulations needed for commercial flights

Less than one month ago, Alaska Airlines Flight 261 plunged into the Pacific Ocean. The MD83 aircraft was only 20 miles from its Los Angeles destination when it suddenly plummeted into the water. In a matter of minutes, everyone on board, 83 passengers and five flight crew members, were dead.

It seems that fatal plane crashes have become commonplace in recent months. There have been four aircraft crashes within the past eight months, beginning with the American Airlines flight 1240 in Little Rock.

The plane was in route from Dallas-Fort Worth International, June 1, when it ran into stormy weather. Despite the bad conditions and low visibility, the pilot decided to land. Eleven people were injured when the American aircraft skidded off the Little Rock runway, breaking apart and bursting into flames as it collided with a light tower, according to June 3, 1999, Washington Post article.

Other recent commercial aircraft crashes include EgyptAir in late October and Kenya Airways this past January. Combined these two crashes killed almost 400 people.

With the number of aircraft accidents on the rise, travelers are beginning to question their safety on commercial flights.

Passengers can no longer assume that all safety measures have been taken when stepping aboard an airplane. Numerous safety and security issues must be addressed before takeoff.

First, there is the question of an aircraft defect, as investigators believe was the case in the Alaska Airlines crash. Mechanical malfunctions are also a concern, especially during the takeoff and the landing, which according to AirSafe.com is the most dangerous part of the flight. Engine failure also contributes to aircraft accidents.

Human error is also responsible for many crashes today. Hijackers and terrorists are also a legitimate concern in modern society. With so many people trying to convince the world of their beliefs, aircraft sabotage is a realistic fear.

The problem is compounded when it is the pilot who acts in a terroristic manner, such as the EgyptAir crash. Terrorism in the skies has happened before, and it can, and probably will, happen again.

Weather is the greatest safety consideration. Dangerous weather conditions can cause a pilot to lose control or bring about unexpected mechanical problems in the aircraft. Such was the case in the all too familiar Little Rock crash.

As consumers and airplane travelers, we need to investigate these safety and security uncertainties for ourselves. We also need to be prepared for the dangers of flying.

There have been crashes since the invention of the airplane and the number of accidents is rising. According to AirSafe.com, fatal accidents have been on the rise because the number of flights has increased. The more flights, the greater the chances for an airplane to crash. It makes sense.

The big question for flyers is this: Is a trip worth facing these risks and is travel worth risking your life or that of your family?
Stepping out of the classroom: seniors gain hands-on learning

By Meredith Hlasta
Bliss staff writer

For many students, senior year is a blur of last-minute classes, late nights and the overwhelming desire to just be free of it all. For graduating seniors in the education and social work departments, their days of college classes and lectures are for the most part over. Instead, they are applying the skills they have learned.

For Jennifer Scism, senior, the transition from student to teacher has been a little rocky. On her fourth day at school, the principal stopped her in the hall and demanded to see a hall pass.

"I just gave her a shocked look and told her that I was a student teacher," Scism said.

Every semester, education majors are distributed to all of the area schools to help teach classes. Secondary education majors went to regular classes for the first five weeks of the semester; last week was their first week of actual student teaching. Elementary education majors have been teaching all semester.

"Both of my cooperating teachers are wonderful," Melissa Tittle, senior, said. "I am really excited about working with Mrs. Collison. She said that it helps to learn as much as you can so that I will from her."

Tittle, who is a math major certifying to teach secondary education, is doing her student teaching at Bald Knob High School.

"My teacher said she enjoys having student teachers because we have a lot of energy and fresh ideas," Tittle said.

Student teaching provides education majors with the opportunity to try out their skills before getting their first real job, according to Tittle.

"I think student teaching is especially beneficial because I am getting to practice how to use the different techniques I have learned in my education classes," she said.

Education majors are not the only ones getting hands-on experience this semester. Senior social work major Brandy Ott is doing a field placement at the Department of Human Services in Searcy.

"While at DHS, Ott shadows a case-worker and learns by watching. The caseworker takes her on home visits, trips to court, as well as transporting clients from place to place."

"I really like working at DHS," Ott said. "You are really involved in peoples lives. You are a complete stranger, but you know everything about them."

Shelley Simmonds, senior, also a social work major working at DHS said, "I really like the field placement. It gives me a way to learn first hand about what my clients were trying to teach me in class."

Although the students get to request a particular location, it is really the luck of the draw where they end up, according to Angela Bearden, senior social work major who is working for the Pangburn/Wilburn school district.

"I got really lucky. The caseworker that I work with is a recent Harding graduate, so she knows what it is like to be learning," Simmonds said.

Simmonds has already been given a small caseload that she is responsible for.

"I have to go on all the home visits by myself and record in the computer every time I make a contact with a client. It is great to be able to apply what we were learning," she said.

For Ott, the experience has been personally and mentally challenging.

"You have to observe and evaluate each person. Some people want you to be aggressive and tell them what to do, and some people want you to be empathetic toward them," Ott said. "The hardest thing is not being judgmental, even when they are acting in a way that is directly against what I believe as a Christian."

Computer-programming team heads for World Finals

By Stephen Jenkins
Bliss staff writer

For the second time in three years, the Harding University computer science department will compete at the 2000 ACM Programming Contest World Finals.

The annual contest, sponsored by IBM, is an activity of the Association of Computing Machinery that provides college students an opportunity to demonstrate and sharpen their problem-solving and computing skills, according to the tournament announcement.

Harding's problem-solving and computing team, coached by Dr. Steve Baber, professor of math and computer science, and Scott Ragsdale, assistant professor of computer science, is comprised of Erik Beatty, David Duke and Matt Welch, seniors.

The team advanced to the world championship in November by placing second to the University of Arkansas in a region of about 330 teams from universities in Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.

"Our team was actually in the lead up until the final five minutes, and then the team from Fayetteville barely squeaked by," Baber said.

Nonetheless, as Harding advanced with second place, it joined the elite, since only 60 teams in the world advanced to the finals.

This year's contest began with 1,960 teams representing over 70 countries and six continents, and it was narrowed down through regional competitions.

During these programming competitions, each triad collectively works to solve as many problems as it can (typically seven, according to Baber) within a five-hour time period. The teams with the most accurate solutions and quickest times advance.

In the final round, the winning team will walk away with not only the trophy and thousands of dollars worth of scholarships, but also the admiration of computing professionals everywhere.

Harding will be competing against teams from Harvard, MIT and Stanford, as well as foreign schools such as Charles University in Prague and the University of Melbourne—an all of which are well known internationally.

"The list of schools reads like a 'Who's Who' list of computer science schools," Dr. Tim Baird, chair of the computer science department, said. "It's really nice to look at the web page listing our competition and to see Harding in that list."

This will be Harding's second World Finals in the last three years, after placing 29th overall and ninth in the U.S. in 1998.

"In the finals, the difficulty level is definitely tweaked up a bit, but we're working very hard in preparing ourselves for it," Duke, a member of the 1998 team, said.

The team has been preparing the past few months by working old problems from past contests.

"It's going to be tough, but I feel as though our team is comparable to the others," Baber said.

The competition brings a high level of distinction to Harding, according to Baber.

"This is definitely a prestigious honor for the school," he said. "Companies hiring graduates and potential computer science students definitely take notice of this achievement."

Baird agreed that such an achievement does have many positive repercussions.

"We have nearly doubled the number of credit hours generated in our department in the last five years," Baird said. "I would like to think that part of that growth has been because we have been able to tell prospective students about the success of the programming team and of the wonderful job opportunities that our graduates are acquiring.

"I think it says that you don't have to sacrifice a quality education in a highly competitive and very technical field in order to have a Christian educational experience."

The team agreed that no matter what happens in the competition, they will enjoy their trip.

Harding will take on the rest of the world March 18 in Orlando.
Musical groups travel to Pine Bluff, St. Louis

By Tiffany Johnston
Bison staff writer

The Harding University choir practices for an upcoming weekend tour. The choir takes several weekend trips every semester. Choir members spent last weekend preparing for churches and schools in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

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What is coming up...

Tonight
SA Movie, "Straight Story," 7 & 9:30 p.m., Benson Auditorium

Tomorrow
Up With People, 8 p.m., Benson Auditorium

Feb. 29
Bison Baseball, 2 p.m.

March 3
SA Movie, "Toy Story 2" 8 p.m.

Learning Enhancement Workshops

March 28
"The Cornell System of Note-taking"

April 4
"Effective Test-taking Strategies"

April 11
"Note-taking With Style"

April 18
"Effective Time Planning"

4:30-5:30 p.m. Room III, Lee Academic Center

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Debate team gears up for national tournament

By Alan Seim
Bison staff writer

As the National Debate tournament draws near, the Harding debate team is hard at work preparing for the upcoming changes in tournament format.

The prior format, Ceda Debate, has been eliminated in hopes of making competition more suitable for the smaller schools that compete, according to Pat Garner, debate team coach and professor of communication.

"This year we are engaging in parliamentary debate, which is much more suitable for smaller schools," he said.

In the formerly used Ceda Debate, competitors were given topics prior to competition. Topics could then be researched by teams long before the competition would begin.

"The Ceda Debate was advantageous to larger schools who had more money and resources available," Shane Randolph, junior, said.

When engaging in parliamentary debate, topics are announced during the round itself. This format forces competitors to be more spontaneous and creative, according to Adam Simpson, sophomore.

"Parliamentary Debate is more advantageous to smaller schools who don't have the resources that many of the larger schools possess," he said.

Team members have adapted well to the new format and have placed at many of their recent competitions, according to Garner. One of these successes included making the quarter finals at the Middle Tennessee State Tournament and placing third in the sweeps round.

"Our team has placed in almost every tournament; I'm very pleased with their efforts," Garner said.

Recently, the team has been busy preparing for the national tournament to be held in Omaha, Neb., in early March. The team practices twice weekly and spends most of its time in individual research.

"We've been practicing often, and when we were not debating we're researching for the upcoming tournament," Eryn Tribble, sophomore, said.

The team attributes much of its success to their coach. Garner has been working with the University's debate teams for nearly 30 years. They hope that Garner's experience will help lead the team in March during the four-day competition, which should prove to be intense, Randolph said.

"Our goal is to make it to the octofinals in the National Tournament," Randolph said.

"We're looking forward to the National Tournament," Garner said. "If we debate to our potential, we should be competitive."
New Third Eye Blind album provides
satisfying mix, despite band's set back

By Paul Vilela
Bison staff writer

As some of you may know, Third Eye Blind fired their lead guitarist, Kevin Cadogan. The reasons for his dismissal are still unknown, but the band released a statement on their web site apologizing for keeping all of their wonderful fans in the dark about Kevin's dismissal.

Cadogan is not happy about his recent firing and is suing the band. He is credited with co-writing 10 of the 14 songs on their sophomore album titled, "BLUE." Taking Cadogan's place is the lead guitarist who played with Third Eye Blind before Kevin arrived. Tony Fredianelli is from Las Vegas and is considered by many, a guitar prodigy. Even though the song is entirely credited to the lead singer, Stephan Jenkins, Tony had a mirror guitar track in the song, "Semi-Charmed Life," which was the band's first big hit and also won Modern Rock Track of the Year at the Billboard Music Awards.

Cadogan will be missed by the fans of the original Third Eye Blind, but the band wishes him every success, even if he is filing a legal suit.

With Third Eye Blind's first album, "BLUE," the band's second released in November of last year, has already sold more than 400,000 copies.

The first song on "BLUE," titled "Anything," sets the stage for the rest of the album. It begins passive and slow, almost making you believe that the rest of the album will be very quiet and beautiful. As soon as you judge the song, the band hits you in the face with pulsating guitars and a drum beat that could replace the caffeine in your morning cup of coffee. This song hits hard and makes you crave song two.

Stephan Jenkins is a poet. His lyrics are strong enough to stand alone without the music, but the music only reinforces his words. Arton Salazar, bassist, along with Brad Hargreaves, drummer, and Kevin Cadogan, former lead guitarist, create a phenomenal mix as they complement each other in every way possible. This band is the closest thing you can get to the Beatles, in your face and their youth shines through their music.

This album has a good mix of soft and fast-paced songs giving the album balance. Even though this album is not as exciting as the first, it is still an excellent album. Third Eye Blind is planned to go on their national tour in March.

By Vicki Cupper
Bison staff writer

What can be said about a play with only two characters? Furthermore, what can be said when those two characters epitomize the word "dysfunctional!!?"

"Sanctuary" was performed last weekend, Feb. 18-19, in the Little Theater. The show was directed by Kimberely Blackburn, senior.

"Sanctuary," written by Emil Sher, explores a conversation between two people, Philip, played by Adian Sullivan, and June, played by Cory Edwards, as they discuss everything that is wrong with their lives. This conversation eventually allows both characters to heal.

The play had a special meaning for Blackburn, who dedicated it to three of the students who were murdered at Columbine High School last year.

Blackburn said that although she was not a student there, the incident struck a chord with her.

"Anyone who knows me knows I feel very strongly about school shootings," Blackburn said.

However the murders of Rachel Scott, Lauren Townsend, and Daniel Mauser at Columbine High School hit harder than any of them, she said.

The proceeds of the performance will be donated to the HOPE Fund of the Colorado.

"Some of the students can't even say the word 'library anymore," Blackburn said.

The HOPE Fund was set up by Lauren Townsend's mother to build a new library and turn the old library into an art room.

During "Sanctuary," the audience discovers that June let her abusive husband drown in an icy lake while Philip shut down mentally and emotionally after his wife suddenly left him.

These are not what one would call mentally stable individuals.

"I was impressed. They did a really good job," Katie Wampler, freshman, said. "It was incredibly well acted, but it was a very corny script."

I was just trying to figure out who was crazier- Philip or June," Ryan Crisler, freshman, said.

Sullivan was convincing as Philip, the tortured artist in love with June.

"(About) ten guys tried out for "Sanctuary. Luckily, I got it," Sullivan said. "I was nervous about it, but when you get up there on stage, the adrenaline and the audience and everything works."

"It came out a lot better than what I thought I would do downstairs in the dressing room."

Edwards gave a moving performance as June, the emotionally unstable widow.

Erin Rembleski, junior, was originally cast to play June, but she had to cancel due to a recent car accident.

Taking a major role late in the process did not faze Edwards, who up to that point was the stage manager.

"I was a little nervous, but I've been around the play long enough that I was sure it would go pretty well," Edwards said.

The cast will give an encore performance as June, the emotionally unstable widow.

Director of play dedicates performances to Columbine shooting victims

"Anyone who knows me knows I feel very strongly about school shootings."

- Kimberely Blackburn, director of "Sanctuary"

Naturally, the country's premiere leadership school offers a renowned staff of courteous instructors.

By the way, don't forget to get your dinner along with the show on Saturday night. It is a great way to close out the weekend.

Photo courtesy of Third Eye Blind
Third Eye Blind released their second album "BLUE" in November of 1999. The album features a mix of fast and soft-paced songs. Despite the recent firing of Kevin Cadogan, former lead guitarist, the band is planning to begin their national tour in March.
Bison basketball dominates at home

By Landon Horton
Bison sports editor

Bison basketball dominates at home...
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Welcome, Sports Fans!
Here’s a chance for you, Joe or Jane Harding, to match wits against the Bison Sports Editor for the chance to win a large pizza and two drinks from Mazzio’s in Searcy. So, predict the winners of each game and the exact score of the tie-breaker. Then place this form in the Sports Challenge box in the post office window by curfew tonight. (Limit one entry per person.)

By Sarah Terry
Bison staff writer

The Harding University Athletic Department added football and volleyball players to the team roster for the upcoming season after the recent National Signing Day, Feb. 2.

Harding’s football program signed five new players, who each come to the team with a great deal of experience in their respective positions prior to signing as Bison.

The first signee was Freddie Langston, one of two local high school standouts.

A five-foot-eleven-inch, 185-pound quarterback/punter from Searcy High, Langston is expected to be an immediate benefit to the program, according to James Frank, offensive coordinator.

“He has been a winner at every level and is expected to handle our punting duties immediately,” Frank said.

Reid Smith, a six-foot, 175-pound receiver from Harding Academy, was a high school standout because of his excellent hands and speed. During the past season, Smith was named the top high school receiver in the state.

“He has experience catching the ball,” head coach Randy Tribble said. “We think he will fit into our offense and help us in the future.”

Shedrick Lewis, a five-foot-nine-inch, 165-pound defensive back from Beaumont, Texas, is a transfer from Cisco Junior College.

Tribble expects Lewis’ great speed to benefit the team. Last year, Lewis led the Texas Junior College League in kickoff returns.

Tim Polk, a six-foot, 205-pound linebacker from Sherman, Texas, is another signee.

Polk will greatly benefit the program because of his speed and “great instincts,” according to Tribble.

Polk was already a Bison fan before joining the team; he is the younger brother of Les Polk, a current Bison linebacker.

The final signee for the football team was Coy Nance, a kicker from Hector, Ark.

Tribble hopes Nance, who was a leading high school kicker in the state during the past season, will benefit the Bison because of his strength and range.

“He has an extremely strong leg on kickoffs and excellent range on field goal attempts,” Tribble said.

After the recent signing day, the volleyball team also added three new players for the upcoming season. Coach Keith Giboney hopes the new signees will strengthen weaknesses in the team and complement existing playing styles.

“These players are all similar in play. They have a lot of playing experience,” Giboney said. “They are quicker, smaller and more athletic than some of our past players.”

Shadae Farley, a five-foot-seven-inch player from Crowley’s Ridge Academy in Paragould, Ark., was named Arkansas State Tournament’s Most Valuable Player during her senior year as her school won its third consecutive state championship.

While a member of this team, Farley set season records in both kills and digs.

Shahar Langston, a five-foot-eight-inch player from Mustang High School in Oklahoma City, was named her team’s Most Valuable Player during her junior year.

During the off-season, she plays for the Oklahoma Wind team, part of the USA Volleyball’s Junior A1 program.

The final signee was five-foot-nine-inch Veronica Piech from Heritage Christian in Milwaukee, Wis. As a senior, Piech was named second team All-State.

She spent the off-season playing for the Milwaukee Sting, which is also part of the USA Volleyball’s Junior A1 program.

The past season saw the loss of three valuable outside hitters for the Bison volleyball team.

Giboney said he hopes to make up for the loss with the addition of the new signees, each of whom are outside hitters.

At least one more player will sign with the team before next season, according to Giboney.

Track team fares well at Central Missouri

By Rachael Harless
Bison staff writer

In the midst of the final acts of basketball season and the opening scenes on the baseball diamond, another group of athletes has been busily preparing for the starting gate running hard and looking for good things in the future.

The Harding track team, led by coach Bryan Phillips, competed last Saturday at the Central Missouri State University Classic. The indoor team of six women and twelve men came home after placing in several events and after two achieved national qualifying times.

On the women’s side, Erin Elliott came in fifth place in the 400-meter dash; Diane Grubbs and Elizabeth Lucas placed sixth and 11th respectively in the one mile run; Britney Copeland set a personal record in the 3,000-meter run, coming in third place; Cherri Ethridge and Tia Tarole also participated in the 3,000-meter, coming in eighth and 14th.

For the men, Bernhard Tillman and Rashun Taylor came in third and fourth in the 55-meter dash; Chris Dobbie placed 14th in the 200 meter. The men had quite a showing in the 800-meter run with Albert Phillips taking second place, Jeff Langot third, and Gary Luna eighth. Harding’s team picked off three athletes in the triple jump, finishing second in the 55-meter hurdles and the long jump, and they finished second in the 4x100 meter relay.

“I expected the team to compete well,” Phillips said. “They did a good job, so I was happy.”

Phillips and the team are now turning their attention toward outdoor track and focusing on qualifying times in all areas.

Two runners, Tabut and Langot, each achieved qualifying times (800m) in the meet on Saturday. This could place them in the NCAA Division II National Indoor Track Competition, which will be held in early March.

Phillips said he thinks athletes competing in other events, such as sprint relay, have an excellent chance of qualifying in future meets as well.

The team members themselves are also expecting more success. Collins fared well this past weekend but said he hopes for even better things to come.

“I did think considering it was my first college meet,” he said. “I’m really getting prepared for the outdoor season now, and I’m looking forward to nationals.”

The track team will travel next to Southern Arkansas University, March 9, for their first outdoor meet of the season. They will compete at home, April 1.