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THE BISON



'Petit Jean' staff completes final deadline for 2000 yearbook

By Meredith Garrity
Bison staff writer

After numerous late nights and many long hours, the 1999-2000 *Petit Jean* staff met their final deadline. The last set of pages were mailed to the Jostens plant for production, Wednesday, Feb. 23.

The process began last spring when Kay Gowen, faculty adviser, and Jim Miller, assistant director of student publications, selected the staff of eight editors and two photographers.

During the summer, Sonya Sawyer, editor-in-chief, and Gowen chose the theme design for the book's cover.

The yearbook staff kicked off the year in September by taking an annual trip to the Jostens Plant in Topeka, Kan. During the trip, staff members toured the plant, asked representatives questions about the book's production and then headed to Branson, Mo. for some relaxation.

"It was a great way to start the year," Miller said. "It was a good bonding time, which is important because it takes a lot of teamwork to complete a yearbook."

Although the theme is still not known to the student body, the yearbook does focus on the new millennium, according to Sawyer.



Photo by Ric Helms

Shauna Lee, copy editor for the 'Petit Jean,' looks over final proofs for the 2000 yearbook. The staff met their final deadline Wednesday, Feb. 23. The book will be distributed April 27 and 28.

"We don't have one main highlight, but we try to catch the flavor of what makes this year more unique," Sawyer said.

According to Sawyer, the biggest challenge was putting the book together with an "inexperienced" staff. Sawyer said only one member of the 1998-1999 staff, Daniel Dubois, head photographer, returned to the *Petit Jean* this year.

"Most of us were new to working on a yearbook, but we had fun and accomplished our goal in creating a really good publication," Jaren Page, people editor, said.

In addition to the new students, this was also the first year that Gowen was not the on-site adviser. Her position was filled by Miller who now advises both *The Bison* and *Petit Jean*.

Although a lot of time and work was involved in making the 2000 *Petit Jean*, staff members said there was also a lot of fun and relationships created.

"Although each of the editors had tons of work to do, we always tried to help each other out and had a blast doing it," Eric Barnes, student life editor, said.

Computer teams place in state competition

By Vicki Cupper
Bison staff writer

The Computer Information Systems teams placed second and third in the annual Arkansas Collegiate Programming Contest sponsored by the Axiom Corporation of Conway, Feb. 15.

The teams, sponsored by Dr. Jim Behel, associate professor of business, included three students on each team.

Mario Torres, Adrienne Wilson and Chris Charles, seniors, were members of the first team.

Gary Bull, senior, was joined by Shawn Ferguson and Dilia Fuentes, juniors, to complete the second team.

The two teams competed in five programming problems against teams from Arkansas Tech and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Each team had five hours to complete the five problems. The team with the most problems completed correctly at the end of the allotted time won.

"Just knowing how hard we prepared for the competition, I felt really good about placing," Wilson said.

"This was my first time to compete, so I'm very happy we placed," Fuentes said.

Each student was assigned

"Just knowing how hard we prepared for the competition, I felt really good about placing."

— Adrienne Wilson, senior

a problem, debugged it and then made sure it worked, Bull said.

"Some of the problems were really easy, and some were really hard," he said.

As if the programming problems were not difficult enough, one team experienced computer setbacks.

"We could have done a lot better, but our computer crashed five minutes before the competition started," Bull said. "Luckily, our alternate brought his laptop so we could still compete."

The statewide competition allowed teams from various schools to show off their programming skills for the Axiom Corporation, the nation's leading information broker.

"The Axiom Corporation is one of the main recruiters for Harding students in this field," Behel said.

The teams were presented with trophies, and each member received a certificate for participation.

The trophies can be seen in the Alltel lab in the Science Building.

Former President of Poland to speak on struggle against communism



Photo courtesy of American Studies Institute

Lech Walesa, former President of Poland, will speak Tuesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. in the Benson Auditorium as part of the ASI Distinguished Lecture Series. Walesa was influential in ending communism in Poland.

By Rachel Wilson
Bison staff writer

One of the world's great political leaders, Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, will speak in the Benson Auditorium, Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

Between 1980-1995, Walesa, a Nobel Peace prize winner for bringing political freedom to Poland, was responsible for ending communism in the country, as well as establishing economic and political reforms there.

Walesa's visit to Harding is not merely another representation of the American Studies Institute's repertoire of speakers, however.

"There is a spiritual agenda to his coming here," Dr. Bob Reely, associate executive director of ASI, said.

In the summer of 1998, missionary to Poland, Mike Dawidow, first posed the possibility of Walesa's appearance at Harding, according to Reely. Dawidow believed that

exposing Walesa to a genuine Christian community would help the mission work in Poland.

Reely sent an invitation to Walesa through Dr. Cliff Ganus, III, when the Chorus toured Poland in 1998. After many months of planning, arrangements were solidified for Walesa to speak at Harding.

"I really want the students to come out to hear him in the best interest of the church," Reely said. "We need to leave a favorable impression on him [to help the church in Poland]."

Walesa's leadership in Poland is unique in the fact that he was not intentionally pursuing a political agenda, according to the American Program Bureau.

In 1980, a group of laborers in a shipyard were on strike because they wanted the Communist government to allow them to organize independent trade unions. Walesa joined their revolt and passionately encouraged the workers not to give up fighting for their rights.

As a result of his leadership, news of the strike, known as Solidarity, spread throughout the country.

After signing the Gdansk Agreement, which allowed workers to form unions, Walesa continued to lead the Solidarity party. When Communist leaders realized the strength of the Solidarity party, they invited the group to form a coalition government, according to a press release.

Solidarity refused to join the Communists, and under the leadership of Walesa, Solidarity became the leading party in Poland and effectively ended communism.

Prior to Walesa's speech, which will be translated into English, the combined chorus and orchestra will perform for the political leader, according to Reely.

"Students will enjoy hearing about what he did in Poland," Jennifer Burton, ASI officer, said. "We can encourage him and also learn interesting things from him."

What is going on...

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is "certainly flattered" by suggestions she seek the presidency of her native Czech Republic, but she has dismissed the idea without serious consideration, her spokesman said.

Police Director Joseph Santiago of Newark, N.J., has suspended three police supervisors who charged an 11-year-old girl with assault and weapons violations. Police handcuffed the girl and detained her for two hours. The girl's crime: using scissors to cut a lock of another girl's hair during a physical education class.

Ikenna Iffih, 28, a student at Northeastern University's college of computer science in Boston, was charged with three federal counts related to computer hacking in what prosecutors said was a coast-to-coast endeavor that penetrated military and government networks, and ultimately gave him control of a NASA computer system.

Doris Haddock, 90, known as Granny D, plans Tuesday to finally complete a year-long trek to the nation's Capitol in Washington D.C. in the name of campaign finance reform. The effort has already taken Haddock across 3,100 miles and 12 states, including Arkansas, during the last 12 months.

Just some thoughts... That's my final answer

A phenomenon known as the "Millionaire effect" has officially stricken the American public, and grabbed entertainment big wigs by the ratings.

For the past several months, the take-America-by-storm game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" has captivated audiences, as host Regis Philbin dares contestants to test their collective knowledge of everything from pop music to English literature.

The grand prize for those who successfully make it past Philbin's questions is \$1 million—anything else is just a bit more than disappointment.

In the wake of "Millionaire," several imitations have arrived on the scene hoping to gain a piece of the "millionaireholistic pie." "Greed" and "21" are attempting to follow suit and cash in on the popularity and, of course, the money.



Elizabeth R. Smith
Bison editor

According to the Feb. 28 issue of *Newsweek*, "Millionaire" will generate \$200 million in profits for ABC during the 1999-2000 season, and Thursday night ratings for the 9 p.m. EST slot soared 325 percent when the show began airing at that time.

We just cannot get enough of "Millionaire." It seems that everyone wants their fair share of what television has convinced us is rightfully ours.

One show, "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire" even attempted to create television nuptials between a millionaire and the beauty-queen of his choice. Ten "lucky" contestants were chosen from a lineup of bathing-suited beauties who were then asked to answer several "deeply probing" questions in hopes of being chosen as his bride. I'm sorry, did I lose my ticket back to the 1950s?

The show sustained a serious blow

last week, however, when reports of a restraining order filed by previous girlfriend against groom Rick Rockwell hit the press, according to *Newsweek*. Fox has said that it will not air the show, but several imitations on other networks are expected.

So what is America's fascination with wealth really all about? Perhaps it is caused by the healthy economy and surge in technology, which, according to the Feb. 21 issue of *US News & World Report*, is increasing the nation's overall wealth.

After all, the rise in economic activity has done more for those who earn million dollar salaries than for those in the middle class or below level.

For example, several law firms in Silicon Valley have increased their starting annual pay from \$125,000 to \$150,000, while retail salespersons, mail carriers, cashiers, office clerks, bank tellers and janitors have experienced an average eight percent decrease in pay from 1983-1998.

Perhaps America's "Millionaireholism"

is the chance for ordinary Americans to taste the pie of success and wealth, where everyday knowledge is worth cash. Happiness seems attainable with the winnings of a game show in hand, or maybe with a husband, who is already wealthy. But this is not what made America great.

"Nothing struck me more forcibly," wrote Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville of America in 1831, "than the general equality of position among the people."

"Millionaire" has given ordinary people the chance to escape social class and social expectations and to have the opportunity for one hour to become a millionaire. The effects of these shows are concerning.

As Americans become increasingly obsessed with wealth, we tend to lose sight of history. The Great Depression did not discriminate and impoverished both the rich and poor.

So go ahead and pick your life lines, but don't forget that a good life is not necessarily connected with wealth. And that Regis, is my final answer.

Primary elections: a voice for the people and their political parties

The 2000 presidential election has proven to be a very interesting race to watch so far. This is the first year in memory where the primary process has been so contested.

The reason the primaries this year have been so interesting is because Sen. John McCain has actually given Gov. George W. Bush a run for his money.

For the past year, Bush has been the inevitable choice for the Republican nomination. The media said it, the polls said it, he said it and the Republican party even said it. Well folks, the American people sure have not said it.

As of Monday, Bush had only 93 delegates to McCain's 96. They are close in the hunt, but early predictions said that McCain would not last this long in the race.

Many expected he would go the way of Orrin Hatch, Gary Bauer and Steve Forbes by quitting the race before it really even got going. However, he has held on by winning in large states like Michigan.

The reason many vocal Republicans think McCain has been able to win so many states is because of the open primary system that is in effect for some of the states.

In an open primary, people of either party, as well as independents, can



Meredith Hlasta
Bison staff writer

vote. Michigan is one of 21 states that has this type of primary.

In a closed primary, only people of the specified party can vote.

In some states, however, one is allowed to change their party affiliation on the day of the primary.

In each primary, candidates are awarded delegates. A candidate wins the nomination by having the majority of delegate votes at the party's convention.

Usually the candidate who wins the nomination has a large majority of the votes and it is clear long before they win that they are going to receive the nomination.

However, for this election that has not been the case. Many people in the Republican party are predicting the race between McCain and Bush will last until the end.

We are in the middle of primary season. Tuesday, March 7, is what is referred to as "Super Tuesday." On that day, there are 173 delegates up for grabs for both the Democrats and the Republicans. Eleven states are holding primaries: California (54 delegates), Connecticut (8), Georgia (13), Maine (4), Maryland (10), Massachusetts (12), Missouri (11), New York (33), Ohio (21), Rhode Island (4) and Vermont (3).

Whoever wins Tuesday will be in a good position for their party's nomination.

California and New York are two of the top three states with the most delegate votes, Texas is number two with 32 delegates. Following those three are Florida with 25, Pennsylvania with 23, Illinois with 22 and Ohio with 21.

Florida is holding its primary March 14 as is Texas, Pennsylvania's is April 4, and Illinois's is March 21. These large states are the states that the candidates are focusing on the most, especially since they often have an all or nothing policy with delegates, which means the winner takes all.

Now you may be wondering what the difference is between a primary and a caucus. Funny you should ask, I will tell you.

A caucus is a gathering of members of a certain political party. They meet to vote on their views of party policy, as well as who they will each endorse for the national party nomination.

It is from this pool of people that state delegates are chosen later on at the state party meeting.

Primaries are important to the political process. They tell party leaders who the people want for presidential candidates.

In other words, it is an opportunity for the American public to tell their party who they want for President.

Harding friend grateful for help

Dear staff, faculty and students,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, letters, cards, flowers and visits that I have received since I became disabled a year ago. I love and miss all of you.

I was really grateful for the groups that have come to my house to help me with chores and even yard work, when I was so sick.

We had a party before the holidays. Many students came and decorated, and even put up my Christmas tree and lights, while we listened to Christmas music. It was a special night for me.

Thanks to the kids who came back after Christmas to store my Christmas decorations and clean again.

Good luck to all of you.

—Janet Flath, "Ms. Janet"

Editor's note: This space is reserved for letters about issues concerning students and readers.

Correction

Kate Wampler was mistakenly quoted in the Feb. 25 article, "Director of play dedicates performances to Columbine shooting victims." Ryan Crisler, not Wampler, said "the play was well acted, but it was a very corny script."

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THE BISON

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The *Bison* is a campus newspaper written, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The *Bison* recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding Christian ideals for which Harding University exists. Its attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards.

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Internet safety not threatened by attacks

In the wake of recent attacks on several big name Web sites, the American public seems to be ignoring the relative safety of e-commerce.

These attacks on major Web sites have brought up the concern of safety on the Internet.

The hackers overloaded the sites with bits of data that caused the sites to become overloaded, causing a denial of service to the sites.

It all began, Feb. 7, with Yahoo! when the attacks slowed or, in many cases, downed the major Web site.

By the end of the week, other sites were attacked: eBay, E*Trade, Buy.com, ZDNet, CNN, Amazon.com, The Microsoft Network and Excite joined Yahoo! as victims of what are known as coordinated denial-of-service attacks, according to the Feb. 21 issue of Newsweek.

All of the sites lost some revenue from the attacks and had hours of downtime.

However, this attack did not spell financial disaster for these companies. Most of the sites only lost small amounts of revenue, because consumers simply waited and bought the product later when the sites got back on their feet.

On Feb. 24, auction giant eBay Inc. said recent hacker attacks had caused



Bryan Creech
Bison staff writer

only minor financial loss, according to Reuters wire service.

Hackers have always tried to bring down web sites and cause the Internet to crash with a bang, according to Newsweek. However, their attacks have not crippled the industry as they intended.

Instead, the hackers

have merely pointed out where the weaknesses on the Net are, enabling companies to fix those problems and build better sites.

In the end, after the bugs and problems are found and solved, e-commerce goes back to business as usual.

"It's how technology evolves," Allan Sloan of Newsweek, said.

Web sites and Internet Service Providers have had downtime even without the threat of outside attacks. However, the number of sites attacked at one time, as well as the nature of these sites, has caused mass hysteria in the American public.

Just as the Y2K bug sent everyone into a panic and then turned out to be a non event, so will this fear of the Internet and e-business.

Security will, and has already, increased on both the Web sites themselves and the ISP that allowed the hackers to do their horrible deed. Within hours of the attack, engineers were hard at work fixing the problem.

Eight Internet providers have teamed up with Internet security firm ICSA.net to form an alliance intent on preventing denial-of-service attacks.

The Internet grows stronger everyday because of attacks like this. Now security is increased and the denial-of-service attacks will be better handled in the future.

Incidents such as these actually help e-commerce in the long run, because we become better equipped to handle bigger and more devastating attacks.

In the aftermath of these incidents, it seems the American

public has worked itself into a frenzy over nothing.

The Internet is still in its infancy and will continue to have occasional problems until it matures as a means of business and communication. The nature of growth allows for both error and remedy.

However, the benefits from the Internet far outweigh any possible disadvantages that may occur.

"The Internet grows stronger everyday because of attacks like these. Now security is increased and the denial-of-service attacks will be better handled."

Facing the Issues

Is e-business safe business?

Internet hackers too close to e-business

The multimillionaire owners of Yahoo!, eBay and Excite were at the mercy of cyber-villians last Monday, Feb. 7, who hacked into nine Internet services, causing worldwide panic, which spread through every computer.

These hackers broke into sites, filled them with error messages, poured meaningless data bits on the screen and ultimately caused a bigger "virtual" traffic jam than one seen during any rush hour. As business sites continued to break and crash, users could not access the sites for hours - all because some college students in California thought it would be great to warp the price of computer - security stocks.

This is not the first case of e-business frailty. Hackers are dangerously clicking closer into large businesses and even our personal lives, and they are doing it successfully. Breaking in is not a difficult thing to do anymore.

Because software is very complex, it leaves room for much unknown error.

Hackers are finding loopholes in the system and using them to attack companies and personal computers. Others get their kicks by sneaking into programs and changing prices. Some hack-



Tiffany Johnston
Bison staff writer

ers are rewriting text in top-secret government sites. They are stealing bank and credit accounts that are not properly protected.

Companies violate privacy rights by attaching names and addresses to anonymous profiles. And the list of problems continues. So why risk taking the chances?

Even on levels lower than instant Web access and FBI hacker searches, we do not have to be professional businessmen to see that e-business is bad business; the frailty of the Internet in the business world is not just about glitches and hackers and money. It is even more a social problem.

Although the Internet eliminates distance between people, e-business defaces social interaction and turns it into an intrapersonal relationship. It takes away the face-to-face aspect of business that is so crucial in the working world today.

E-business forces people to sit in a little room, stare at a small laptop and become practical invalids to the outside

world. Many companies do not know who really works for them because their relationship exists solely through e-mails and Instant Messenger.

Business over the Internet is also making our world two-dimensional. It is like shopping for a car at one of the shopping spree Web sites; you ask for what you want at the price you want to pay and the site finds your ride. Sounds great; however, in reality you are putting your money into a 2-D model. You cannot touch it. You are not seeing the whole picture from a clear view.

Doing business over the Internet is depriving us of our senses.

This realization probably is not going to change our growing dependence for the Internet and its services, but we can take precautions to protect ourselves from its security problems, glitches and attacks.

Make sure you are sending credit card numbers to secure sites, meaning those that are encrypted. Change your password frequently.

Finally, get to know your boss and coworkers. Step outside your cubicle and get to know your neighbor.

"The frailty of the Internet in the business world is not just about glitches and hackers and money. It is even more a social problem."

Speak Up

Would you feel comfortable conducting business on the Internet?



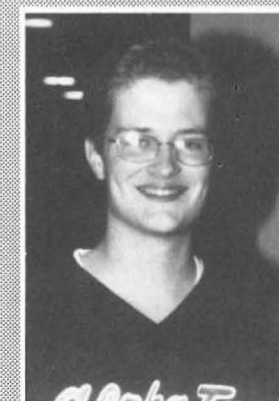
Nathan Thompson, freshman
"Yes, because I have never had any problems with it so far."



Kellie Davis, junior
No, I don't trust giving out personal information over the Internet."



Ashley Burton, senior
"Yes. I've found buying books through Amazon.com has been convenient and affordable."



Jonathan Briggs, freshman
"No. If I can't see my money I'm not getting what I paid for."

News

Keith Cronk appointed Chief Information Officer

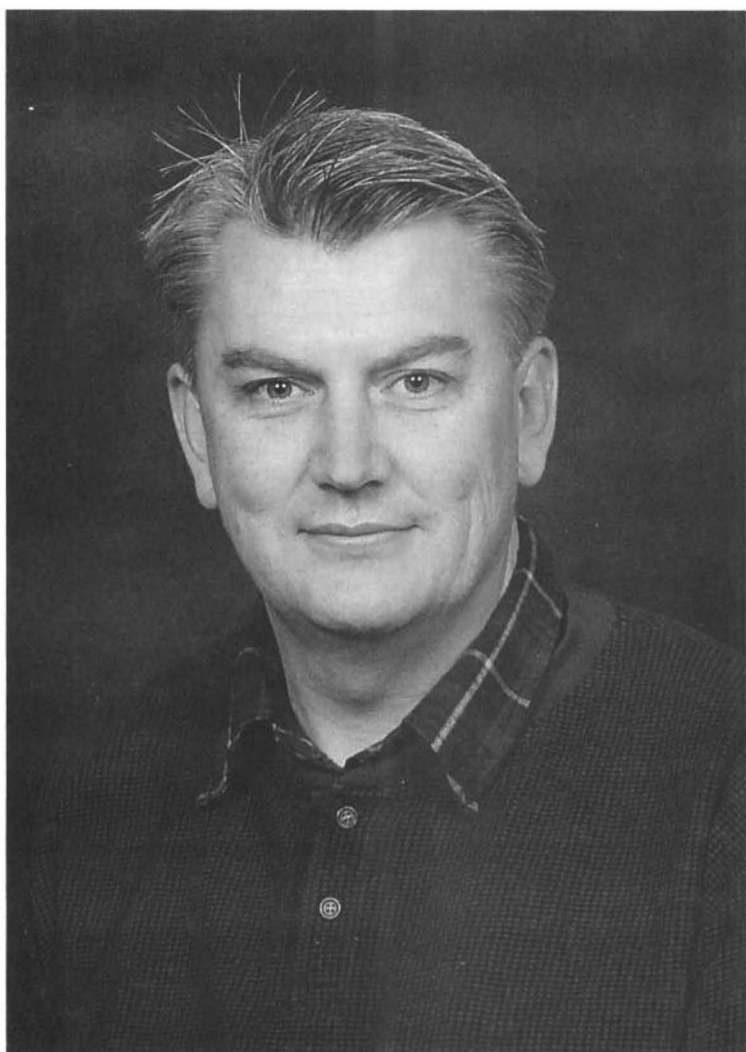


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Keith Cronk, newly appointed chief information officer, will be responsible for helping implement information technology into the university's strategic plans. Cronk comes to Harding from Toowoomba, Australia, where he served as manager of corporate and international services for the University of Southern Queensland in the School of Information Technology.

By Sarah Terry
Bison staff writer

When Keith Cronk arrived on the Harding University campus from Toowoomba, Australia, for the first time in August 1999, he intended to stay through the school year as a visiting professor in the School of Business.

But what was originally planned as a nine-month sabbatical from the University of Southern Queensland has turned into a permanent position with Harding University as the newly appointed chief information officer.

"God got to work," Cronk said. "It's been a real blessing."

In his new position, Cronk is responsible for all information technology issues pertaining to Harding University, Harding Academy and Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis.

Cronk oversees every outlet for technology on campus — from technology in the classrooms to the computer labs and dormnet.

"I am responsible for making sure that any strategic decisions made include information tech-

nology," he said. "I make sure that Harding uses the information technology to serve in the most Christian way."

The position of chief information officer — new to the Harding University campus — reflects the increasing presence and place of technology in the world.

According to Cronk, the addition of this position exemplifies the university's understanding of technology's role.

"The job reflects Harding's view of how important technology is," he said. "Technology is everywhere, but it's important not to get carried away with what is there and use what we have effectively."

Cronk arrived in his position with a great deal of experience in a relatively new field.

He holds a M.L. degree with a dissertation focused on information systems from the University of New England, a graduate diploma in computing from the University of Cberra and B.A. degrees in political science and geography from Australian National University.

Prior to joining the Harding

faculty, he served as manager of corporate and international services at the University of Southern Queensland and associate dean in the School of Information Technology.

His association with Harding dates back more than 15 years when the university began taking yearly campaigns to the congregation Cronk attends in Toowoomba.

"I talked to Dr. Burks and Rich Little about the idea, and one thing led to another," Cronk said.

His wife, Reet, also a professor, has recently joined the School of Business as a faculty member.

They have three children, Matthew, Penny and Christina, who attend Harding Academy.

Cronk said his family is adapting to the changes of living in a new country.

"It's different but exciting," he said. "We're enjoying the different culture and the Harding culture."

The biggest differences are the colloquial sayings, he said, adding "we have a different way of doing things but we all achieve the same results."

Students enter poetry, stories, essays to be judged in Jo Cleveland Writing Contest

By Paul Vilela
Bison staff writer

Last Friday, Feb. 25, the Jo Cleveland Creative Writing Contest accepted its last application, at least for this year.

The contest provides an opportunity for young writers to test their skills against their peers.

It offers encouragement to those wondering if they have any potential in the field of writing.

Laura Bontrager, junior, who won first place in the fiction category last year, said about her win, "I felt justified because I want to be a writer, but I also felt nervous because I had to read a section in front

of the English department faculty and the other winners."

Not only do the winners get the prestige of winning the award, they also get cash prizes.

The first place winners in every category win \$40, second place \$30 and third place \$20.

Once submitted, the entries are critiqued by two judges from the English department. Every category has two judges, giving the contest a total of eight.

On March 15, the contest winners will be announced in chapel. Then the winners will be awarded at a banquet in their honor.

Andrea Hollander Budy, the writer in residence at Lyons College, will speak at this year's banquet. Her first book, *A House Without a Dreamer*, won the Nicholas

Roerich Award, which is a national award for first-time poetry writers. Budy also writes for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

"Those of us in the English Department appreciate that poetry is being written by many Harding students and shared in many unofficial forms across campus," Dr. John Williams, associate professor of English and the contest organizer, said.

"We just hope that our contest is a positive influence on all student poets, to help stimulate their writing."

The awards banquet will be held April 6 and is open to everyone. For ticket information please call 279-4421.

What is coming up...

Tonight SA Movie, "Toy Story 2,"
9:30 p.m., Benson Auditorium

Tomorrow SA Movie, "Toy Story 2,"
7& 9:30 p.m., Benson Auditorium

March 7 ASI Speaker, Lech Walesa, 7 p.m.,
Benson Auditorium

Learning Enhancement Workshops

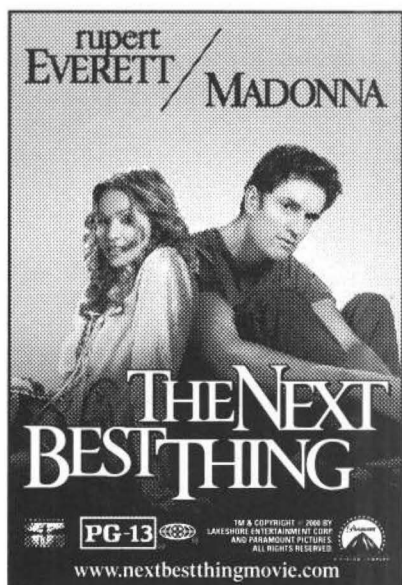
March 28 "The Cornell System of Note-taking"

April 4 "Effective Test-taking Strategies"

April 11 "Note-taking With Style"

April 18 "Effective Time Planning"

4:30-5:30 p.m. Room 111, Lee Academic Center



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Volunteers lend helping hands at Special Olympics last Friday

By Kelly Carter
Bison staff writer

Part of Harding's mission is encouraging students to become Christian servants. Last Friday, Feb. 25, students had the chance to make a difference by serving some exceptional children.

More than 169 athletes and coaches participated in this year's Special Olympics basketball tournament. Thirteen junior high teams and three senior high teams from the surrounding area came out to compete in the Ganus Athletic Center.

"Smiles that I see on the faces of the children make all the hard work that goes into organizing Special Olympics worth it," Emily Clevenger, senior, said. Clevenger was chosen as the student to help organize this year's Special Olympics, and is a member of the Stu-

dent Council for Exceptional Children.

More than 150 students came during the day to help. They registered players, served lunch, kept score, refereed and cheered for the players.

"The athletes are so fun," Alison Custer, sophomore, said. "They all enjoy the interaction and knowing they are loved."

Special Olympics required a lot of commitment from the children. Some coaches had their teams practicing an hour a week for a month. Other teams had been practicing three times a week since the beginning of the semester.

Special Olympics happens every year thanks to the hard work of Sally Paine, Clevenger said. Paine has a degree in special education and has worked at the Sunshine School for 20 years.

This is her seventh year of or-

ganizing the basketball tournament.

United Way, a non profit charity organization, supplies the budget for Special Olympics, which makes it possible for all athletes to play without cost.

All of the teams were broken up into divisions according to skill level.

Before a school could sign-up, they had to take a skills test. Each team was timed as they shot for points. The division of teams made three junior high divisions and one high school division.

"I love playing basketball and making new friends," Bobby Brush, 11, of Bald Knob Middle School, said.

This was Brush's first year to play, and his team placed second in their division.

"My favorite part of the day was the first game we played,"



Photo by Kelly Carter

Two players in the junior high school division face off in the Ganus Athletic Center. The Special Olympics basketball tournament was held at Harding Feb. 25. The track and field events will be held April 29.

Robert Cox, 13, of Southwest Middle School, said. "We beat Beebe 14-6."

Cox's team also placed second in their division.

In the high school division, Cabot won first place. In junior high action, the Batesville Pioneers (A-team) walked away with the Division I title.

White County Central won first place in Division II. Pangburn sealed a first place title in Division III. All teams participating won a

trophy, and all athletes received ribbons.

"Special Olympics gives kids who can't be on varsity the chance to play and learn team work," Sandra Johnston, White County Central coach, said.

Volunteers will also be needed on Saturday, April 29, for the Special Olympics track and field events.

"Without the volunteers from Harding, Special Olympics wouldn't be possible," Paine said.



Photo by Jennifer Burton

David Haustein, American Studies Institute student member, and a member of the Spring Hill community visit at the Tennessee Children's Home during lunch Saturday, Feb. 26. The ASI group toured the campus and then spent part of the afternoon playing softball, football and other games with children from the Home.

Exploring Nashville

51 ASI members tour businesses, visit children's home

By Kelli Fager
Bison staff writer

The wheels were turning this weekend as students from the American Studies Institute rolled into Nashville.

A group of 51 American Studies students and two supervisors left Searcy Thursday, Feb. 24 for the annual ASI trip. This year, the group chose to visit the people and places of Nashville, Tenn.

The first stop was the Crieve Hall Church of Christ on Thursday night. The church provided a home-cooked meal for the group and arranged for the students to stay with host families for the night.

Friday morning began a whole new day of adventures.

The first part of the day was devoted to visiting Christian businesses. First, the group toured World Christian Broadcasting, a radio station that is attempting to spread the Gospel to foreign countries, such as China and Russia, via short wave radio signals. The

station tapes the Gospel message in the appropriate language and sends the tapes to Alaska where they are transmitted overseas.

The next stop was Purity Dairies, the headquarters of a chain of dairies throughout Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. This business was started by Miles Ezell, for whom the old Bible building was named.

The group then visited the Hermitage, former home of President Andrew Jackson.

Friday ended with a conference of recent Harding graduates at the Opryland Hotel. At the conference, students discussed life after Harding and how the university is helping them build their futures.

"Everywhere we went we met Christian business professionals. All of the businesses we went to had very successful business people, but successful Christians too," Jennifer Burton, vice-president for trips, said. "Even though they are not missionaries per se, they are still doing mission work."

Saturday's tour started with

the Parthenon. The full scale replica of the original Parthenon, which is in Athens, Greece, houses a 42-foot statue of Athena.

Next, the group visited the Tennessee Children's Home, a facility for kids who come from troubled families or are orphans.

"Most of the people thoroughly enjoyed the Tennessee Children's Home," Burton said. "It is such a good work that they do there."

Finally, ASI finished the trip by cheering on the Nashville Predators hockey team. Burton said the group returned to Searcy early Sunday morning after a fun-filled weekend of sight-seeing and fellowship.

"This was my first time to go on this trip and I am regretting not going before," Landon Horton, senior, said. "It was good to spend some time with the ASI group. Jennifer did a good with it."

Overall, Burton was satisfied with the weekend trip.

"We had a great group," she said. "We learned so much and had a lot of fun together."



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'My Dog Skip:' a 'doggone' good movie opens tonight

By Yavonda Fletcher
Bison copy editor

When I say "family film," what is the first thing that pops into your head?

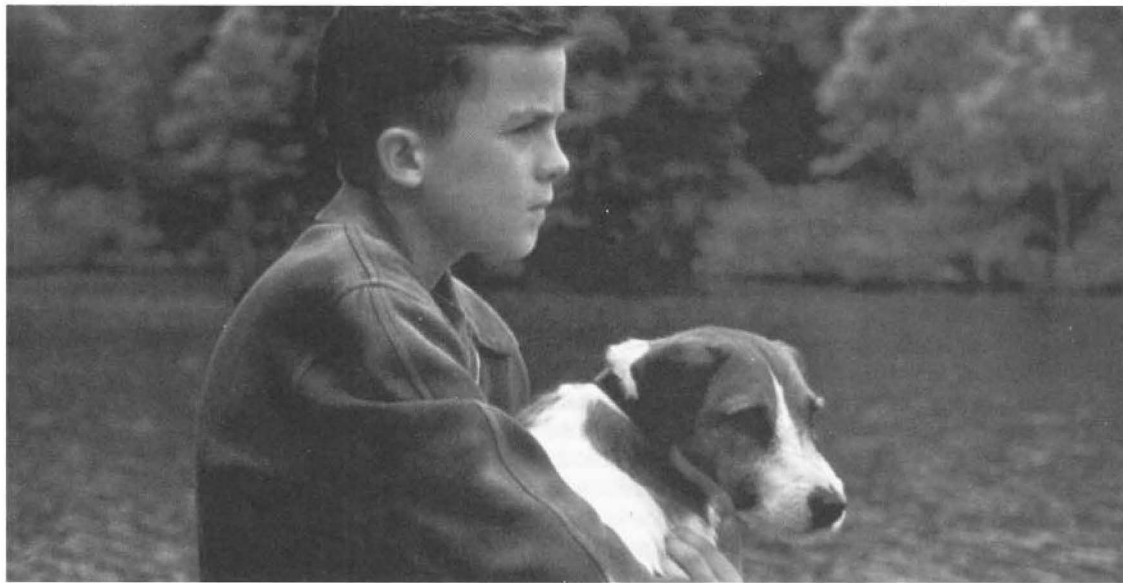
If you are anything like me, you image a cheesy, animated flick with a mouse in it, or worse, a sappy drama that tries to pass itself off as a good story but would not know character development or plot if they jumped out and bit it.

So when Dr. Jack Shock invited me and some other journalism students to go to the test screening of a family film his friend, Jay Russell, directed, I was skeptical. However, *My Dog Skip* defied every preconceived notion I had about what a "family film" should be. It was good — really good.

My Dog Skip, which opens nationally today, was funny, poignant and captivating. It held my attention from the opening shot until the credits finished and the house lights came up.

Based on Willie Morris's childhood memoir, *My Dog Skip* tells the story of a young boy (Frankie Muniz) struggling to find himself, and the dog that leads him in the right direction. From teaching Willie how to make friends to what it means to truly feel remorse, Skip shows Willie how to grow.

During the movie, Willie is also confronted with life's little realities. He discovers no one is perfect, when his idol Dink (Luke Wilson) cannot live up to his all-American image. Willie realizes that his gruff, overbearing father, Jack, (Kevin Bacon) demonstrated love the only way he knew how,



Willie Morris (Frankie Muniz) and Skip star in Warner Bros.' funny, coming-of-age story, "My Dog Skip," also starring Diane Lane, Luke Wilson and Kevin Bacon. The movie opens tonight in 2,400 theaters nationwide.

and that his mother, Ellen, (Diane Lane) understood how to be strong before women had the right to be.

This movie is about childhood. From the days when life is perfect to the days when all dreams are shattered, this movie captures the essence of what it means to be young and innocent. It is about everything pure that is childhood and about how life takes some of that purity away.

This movie works on several levels. First of all, the story is compelling. A boy and his dog — the story is so familiar it almost seems like *deja vu*. However, the way Morris shows us his hometown of Yazoo City, Miss. turns this story from something ordinary to something extraordinary.

Morris said in an interview before his death, which is excerpted on the *My Dog Skip* Web site, "I wrote *My Dog Skip* because the

previous book I had done, *New York Days*, was a terribly difficult book to write.

"I decided the next one I wanted to do would be affectionate and tender, and what better approach than to write about the dog of my childhood."

Gail Gilchrist's adaptation of the novel captures the humor and insight that Morris included in his book.

Secondly, the cinematography is exceptional in that it captures the essence of an era. Shot entirely on location in Canton, Miss., 20 miles from Yazoo City, this movie portrays what life must have been like in the South during WWII.

Of course, the story and cinematography are only the foundation. Without skilled actors, a movie can still fall flat. Thanks to a brilliant cast, there was no danger of that with this film.

Muniz, who is riding a wave of popularity due to his new sitcom "Malcolm in the Middle," is phenomenal as the shy, awkward Willie. With his expressive eyes and his sparkling wit, Muniz steals the show, unless of course, dogs are up for that distinction.

Skip was played by six different dogs, but primarily remained a family affair.

Enzo, a three-year-old Jack Russell played Skip for most of the movie. Enzo's father Moose, better known as Eddie on the sitcom *Frasier*, played the older Skip. These well-trained dogs are a major reason why this movie was a joy to watch.

By using kids and animals, Russell broke "Hollywood's Ten Commandments."

"Kids and animals are something you are never supposed to do," Russell said. "Add to that a

period piece on a low budget and it [didn't make any sense]."

Although overshadowed by Muniz and Enzo, the adults in this movie turned in solid performances as well. Bacon shines as the handicapped father, who attempts to protect his son from the world but finds he cannot. Lane turns in a compelling performance as an unconventional woman, who struggles to find the balance between being a mother and wife. Wilson turns in a convincing performance as the fallen hero, who struggles to find his identity after everything that defined him is stripped away.

My Dog Skip is a great film, but its impact does not stop at the theater door. This movie addresses love, family, friendship, honor, courage, disappointment and betrayal as seen through the eyes of a young boy.

As Willie discovers what it means to be human, we remember learning those same lessons.

"Willie's book did not jump off the pages as a movie. There is no narrative, but the themes of friendship, loyalty, love and what it is like to be a child as seen through the eyes of a child and through adult retrospective, were what made me want to do this movie," Russell said. "I knew that if we could capture those themes, then we'd make it a worthwhile film."

When all is said and done, this movie is not just about Willie's childhood, it is about yours and mine

So, do yourself a favor. Run, don't walk to the theater tonight to see this movie. Take a friend or a child with you. Trust me, you will be glad you did.

Underdog film has its day 'My Dog Skip' director touts persistence as key to success in film, life

By Elizabeth R. Smith
Bison editor

Jay Russell never imagined as a child growing up in North Little Rock, Ark., that he would someday be a movie director.

Yet, tonight, after 20 years in the film industry, Russell will officially shake hands with mainstream America as his first major motion picture, *My Dog Skip*, opens in 2,400 theaters nationwide.

"This is definitely the underdog film has its day scenario," Russell said of the family film, whose two main characters are a misunderstood boy growing up during WWII and his dog.

Perhaps that is the reason that Russell identified so easily with the story.

After receiving his master's degree in 1981 from Columbia University's film school in New York City, Russell was ready to become a director.

Two years later, at the age of 26, Russell got his first "big break" with a project known as "End of the Line," written and directed by himself and a friend.

Based on his father's story of

working with the Rock Island Railroad, in Arkansas, and the hardships associated with railroad life, the script attracted the likes of Kevin Bacon and Mary Steenburgen, both relatively new actors at that time.

Although the film came from the humble beginnings of Russell's tiny New York apartment, it was accepted into the Sundance Film Institute and distributed by Ryan Classics, now Sony Classics.

Some may have taken the film's success and marked a notable career high, but for Russell "End of the Line" was anything but.

"That film was certainly the beginning for me, and I learned as much from that experience as from any other," Russell said.

Russell continued to make films, and after being offered a three-movie contract with a Hollywood studio in 1990, Russell packed up and moved from New York to L.A..

Yet, any hopes he may have had to direct films, were soon crushed when a two-year Writer's Guild Strike, the longest in Hollywood history, left Russell sitting on the sidelines working on scripts that would never make it to the big

screen. When the strike ended, Russell was ready to leave Hollywood.

"[After the strike] I had a distaste for the business," he said.

In an attempt to rediscover his passion for making movies, Russell took a job directing documentaries for HBO.

For four years, Russell traveled the U.S. for HBO. During a trip to the South in 1995 he found the jump start he had been searching for.

While filming a segment on America's roadways, Russell was led to Jackson, Miss., where he had the opportunity to meet Willie Morris, journalist and recent author of a new book "My Dog Skip."

"Willie Morris is one of those larger than life characters, and we became instant friends," Russell said.

On the plane ride home, Russell read Morris' book and immediately knew he had found the story that he was looking for.

"As I shut the book, I first had to dry my eyes from crying and the second thing I did was call Willie Morris to inquire whether the rights were available," he said.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

(left to right) Willie Morris, Skip and Spit McGee (Cody Linley) prepare for battle in Morris' backyard. "My Dog Skip" takes place during WWII in Yazoo City, Miss., where Morris learns life's hard lessons.

Russell and his production team jumped into the film, and finally finished filming in August 1999, four years after he first met Morris.

Morris died not long after the film was finished, but was able to view the unedited version.

"He [Morris] really liked the movie," Russell said. "It was the best review that I could have gotten."

As a family film, *My Dog Skip* stands in stark contrast to many of the films that are made today, Russell said.

"Warner Brothers really took a chance on this film. A lot of family films don't do very well in the box office," he said.

For Russell, the skepticism in Hollywood about wholesome films challenged him to create one

that could appeal to all levels of audiences, while remaining true to the original story.

"I hope that everyone enjoys the film, but more than that I hope that it makes people think about their own friends and their own experiences," Russell said.

Russell credits his own parents with teaching him the value of hardwork, a concept he hopes to pass on to his one-year-old son Bo, he shares with wife Lee Cunningham.

"I didn't have any more talent than my fellow students, but I had persistence or insistence," Russell said. "It requires a tremendous amount of sacrifice, and this business is not for everyone. But, if you want to do something you have to be in for the long haul, and the long haul means your whole life."

BISON SPORTS

The Weekly Wrap-Up

Lady Bisons dominate; men fall to UALR

By Stephen Jerkins
Bison staff writer

Both the Bison and Lady Bison tennis teams faced in-state competition this past week, with the women returning victorious and the men dropping a 5-0 rain-shortened match.

The Lady Bisons, whose only loss of the season came at the hands of Northeastern State, wreaked havoc in Russellville last Tuesday, Feb. 22, sweeping Arkansas Tech 6-0 in singles and 3-0 in doubles play.

Eva-Lena Axelsson, sophomore, improved to 2-0 at the number one position and 11-1 for the

season. She teamed with Carolina Banuelos, freshman, for doubles play. The rest of the team fared just as well, improving the Lady Bisons' overall record to 8-1 for the season.

As the regional rankings come out within the next few weeks, the victory is sure to help the Lady Bison secure a strong status and a chance at post season play, according to Coach David Elliott.

"We have a really good team this season with a lot of depth," Daniela Corrales, freshman, said. "Our match against Ouachita Baptist next week is another important one for determining our rankings."

The men's team fought hard but came up short a week later, Feb. 29, against Division I University of Arkansas Little Rock, bringing the Bisons to 6-4 on the season. UALR is a member of the Sun Belt conference, a strong tennis conference, which, according to Elliott, the Bisons knew going into the match.

The match was called short due to rain, keeping Jacobo Martinez, sophomore, and Seth Bullington, junior, from completing their matches.

"The conditions weren't in our favor, to say the least," Bullington said. "But overall, it was a healthy learning experience."

Nonetheless, the team will bounce back, according to Klaus Schmidt, junior.

"Ouachita Baptist next week will also be tough match," he said. "But whether or not we win, we still stand a chance for a good regional ranking and successful second half of the season."

Elliott shares the same opti-



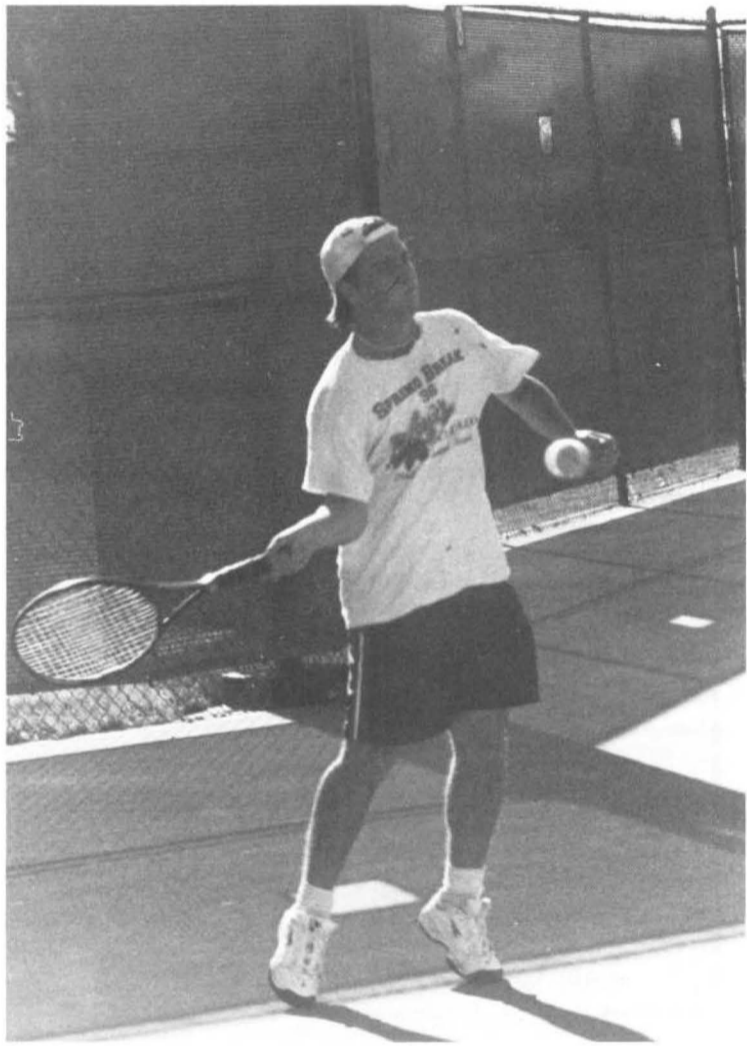
The men's (left) and women's (above) tennis squads practice Wednesday afternoon in preparation for upcoming matches. Both teams have performed well this season, according to Coach David Elliott. (Photos by Ric Helms).

mism, expecting both the men and women to have a successful remainder of their seasons, as well as postseason play in May.

The Bisons and Lady Bisons

will take on OBU and John Brown University on the road March 7 and March 14, respectively.

The squads do not play at home until after Spring Break.



Men's soccer coach anticipates success in team's initial season

By Jamey Jones
Bison staff writer

The Harding athletic program will make a significant addition next fall as Franco Zengaro, currently the men's soccer coach at Searcy High School, signs on to inaugurate intercollegiate Bison soccer.

Up until this point, the Harding men have participated with two teams in a club league in Little Rock. Now, they will compete with other colleges in the Gulf South Conference Division II, as well as some schools in Division III.

Zengaro graduated from Harding in 1990 and received his master's degree from the University of Leicester in Leicester, England, in July 1999. Zengaro, a native Italian, brings extensive coaching experience to the program and will lead the first Harding men's soccer team in the fall of 2000.

As well as coaching, Zengaro brings a new level of playing experience to Harding. He played semi-professionally in Italy while growing up.

Zengaro said he will work with the team beginning at the ground level.

"I hope to establish solid traditions. My direction is to create a successful team," Zengaro said. "I will make sure we are a competitive team. It's part of my job as the head coach."

He wants to maintain balance technically, mentally and physically. Within the team, Zengaro does not want anyone to be afraid of anyone else.

"There has to be respect for everyone," he said.

Zengaro believes the team will do well in its first season.

"Of course there is no way to tell for sure how we will do, but if you set expectations and goals, you will hopefully have good chemistry and make progress," he said.

There are many opportunities for tryouts, which are open to anyone interested. They will be held March 4, 11, 20 and 27 and walk-ons will have an opportunity to try out Aug. 16.

For the first year, the program will not be actively recruiting players because currently no scholarships are available for the team, according to Zengaro.

Each day of tryouts will consist of two sessions. The morning

session will require the athletes to run three miles in 25 minutes, while the afternoon session will consist of a series of skills tests. Each student will be allowed only one day to try out, but must be present at both sessions, according to Zengaro. The team will accept 25 players.

In addition to the running portion, the athletes will also have to complete various skills tests. The first skill consists of juggling the soccer ball consecutively 200 times. Students will be allowed a warmup and then three chances to complete the test. The number of each try will not be added up to equal 200. Only one of the three attempts counts toward the total.

Students must also pass a dribbling test, where they move the ball with their feet, that will be judged on speed and execution, according to Zengaro. Two tries will be given for this test.

The pass timing test requires athletes to run and meet a soccer ball that has been passed through cones. The person trying out has to return the ball in the same manner.

The goalkeeper's test will consist of the same skill tests; however, they will not be tested as heavily on the dribbling skills, according to Zengaro. They will be tested on stopping shots, throwing and punting in an offensive play, as well as goal kicks.

Students who plan to try out say they are not nervous because they have been practicing for months, and they know what to expect in the tryouts. Many of the students trying out have met with Zengaro and have been practicing for several weeks.

The season begins in August and will last approximately two months, depending on how far the team goes in tournament play.

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Griffey deal shakes up baseball world

By Alan Seim
Bison staff writer

It has finally happened. The deal that the entire baseball world has been waiting for has finally been made.

This historic deal sent baseball's poster boy Ken Griffey Jr. from the Seattle Mariners to the Cincinnati Reds, at the best price since the Louisiana Purchase.

Last Thursday, the Reds did the impossible, signing one of baseball's greatest players to a deal hardly worthy of his legendary status. Griffey's actions came as a surprise to many baseball enthusiasts, who thought he would either sign big or not sign at all.

"He's willing to work with terms that are very reasonable, less than market value," Brian Goldberg, Griffey's agent, said in a recent interview with *Sports Illustrated*.

Even more amazing than the actual signing of the contract were the events leading up to it's fruition. As the following events unfurled, it almost seemed that Griffey's destiny rested within the city of Cincinnati.

• Dissatisfied with his current location and situation, rumors spread that Griffey had mentioned wanting to be traded from the Mariners before the last year of his contract expired.

• When it was discovered that home runs came few and far between in Seattle's newly built

Safeco Stadium, Griffey left batting practice and called Seattle general manager Woody Woodward demanding a trade.

• The Braves, who initially seemed interested in acquiring Griffey, revealed their true intentions of wanting to trade for his Seattle teammate Alex Rodriguez.

• Wanting to spend more time with his family in Orlando during spring training, Griffey's choices dwindled down to two teams - the New York Mets and the Cincinnati Reds.

• After weeks of heated argument, a deal to send Griffey to the Reds could not be reached. Reds general manager Jim Bowden was quoted as saying, "Are you willing to lose Ken Griffey Jr. for nothing, and live with that for the rest of your lives?"

• When the Houston Astros folded their weak hand, and the New York Mets' three of a kind did not hold up, the Reds laid down the winning hand; Tomco, Cameron, Meyers, Perez and \$116.5 million.

• Griffey and his agent agreed to the Reds terms pending an option for buy-out during the 10th year of his contract.

• Sports history was made.

A mere 72 hours after signing the contract, an entire town was awaiting Griffey's arrival at the Cincinnati International Airport. Among the crowd was Reds majority owner Carl Linder. Griffey stepped off Linder's \$35 million

private jet and into the passenger seat of his RollsRoyce.

As if the plane and the car were not enough for a smooth trip, to Griffey's amazement, all of the traffic lights en route were reset to flash yellow to welcome their newly acquired prize.

Not since the arrival of Babe Ruth in New York has a city been so enthusiastic about the future of their organization. But perhaps the person most excited to hear of Griffey's signing was baseball's commissioner Bud Selig.

"Thank you, thank you," said an emotional Selig after the trade.

Griffey now joins the National League Central Division, a division packed with all-stars like Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. These three sluggers combined to hit 176 home runs last year and proceeded to sell out more stadiums than the Rolling Stones. This trio also contains the only players alive who have each hit over 55 home runs in a single season.

Come opening day of the Major League season, Griffey will step onto Cincinnati's Cinergy field donning the number 30, which his father wore for the Reds some 25 years ago. The fans will then get a glimpse of baseball greatness and quite possibly see one fly out of the yard.

But more importantly, they will see a ballplayer who has made some material compromises for the love of his family and for the love of the game.

Cold shooting spells defeat for Bisons in playoff loss

By Landon Horton
Bison sports editor

The Bison basketball team was eliminated from the Lone Star Conference playoffs Tuesday in Canyon, Texas as the West Texas A&M Buffaloes ended Harding's season by winning 92-67.

The Bisons, who shot just 38 percent for the game, came out slow, falling behind 12-0. The Buffaloes, on the other hand, hit 61 percent of their field goals and 56 percent of their three-pointers,

which boosted them to a commanding 51-29 lead at halftime.

"We could've played defense more aggressively," Chris Hardaway, senior, said.

Many of the players commented on the fatigue that set in after three straight road games.

"We were on the road for a whole week," Lenny Bert, senior, said. "We had fought to make it to the playoffs. I wish we would have gone out in a better way."

Levern Floyd, senior, led the Bisons in scoring, posting 19

points, including five three-pointers. He fell just two points shy of hitting the 1000-point career mark.

In addition to Floyd, Hardaway and Bert, Tuesday's game was the finale for senior Dwayne Elliott.

"It's been a lot of hard work from the beginning, but the whole experience was worth it," Elliott said.

"It's sad, but I've enjoyed my time here playing for the Rhodes Rowdies," Bert said. "Now it's time to look toward the future."

BISON SPORTS CHALLENGE

Sponsored by Mazzio's Pizza

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).

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- Seattle at Minnesota

NCAA Men's Basketball

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- Syracuse at Connecticut
- North Carolina at Duke
- Oklahoma at Oklahoma St.
- St. John's at Miami

NHL

- St. Louis at Florida
- Nashville at Los Angeles
- New Jersey at Vancouver
- Philadelphia at Boston
- Detroit at Dallas

Tie-Breaker:

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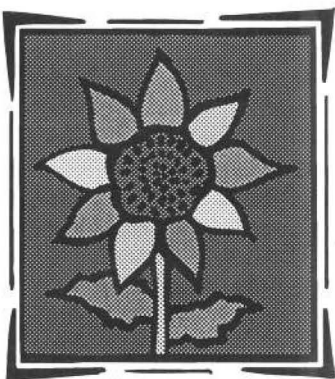
NBA

Miami at LA Lakers _____

* Editor's picks are in bold.

Last Week's Winner: Brett Emerson

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