New meal plans to offer dining options

Student requests invoke change in upcoming year

Natasha Jaworski
Staff Writer

In response to student requests, Aramark will offer a new set of four meal plans starting this fall.

There are currently 12 plans based on four different number of meals in the cafeteria each week: 21, 16, 12 or 5, as well as the amount of declining credit balance.

Some students have voiced complaints about current options. Director of Food Service Steve Ritter, President David Burks, Aramark, the Student Association and several other groups of students came up with what they believe to be a better plan for meals and DCB.

"We made it to fit the student body better," Burks said. "It is simple and has been individualized for the students and faculties of the university.

Starting this fall, students can choose from the four new plans based on their living arrangements and their classification.

- The first plan is an unlimited meal plan. The student can go into the cafeteria as many times as he or she wants each day. This plan is designed for freshmen and students who tend to be in the cafeteria a lot.

- "If they want, the students can go to breakfast before their 8 a.m. class, then grab a muffin after chapel," Ritter said.

- Next is the 14 meals per week plan, which replaces the 16 meals per week plan. This plan allows students to use their meals at any time during the week.

- "I have had several students complain to me that they don't use 12 or 16 meals a week, so these plans were adjusted for them," Ritter said.

- The fourth meal plan is for students who live off campus or in student housing where they are able to fix their own meals. It replaces the five meals per week plan. The plan provides 35 meals for the entire semester, which averages about two meals each week. This plan is like the first plan in that students have the option of using their 35 meals whenever they want.

- DCB has changed as well, becoming simpler and more flexible for students to use. First, every plan has a starting DCB amount of $200. This amount is only a minimum - students can have any DCB amount added to their meal plan at registration or later in the Business Office.

- Leftover DCB will also roll over from the fall semester to the spring semester, which was not allowed under the old plans.

- "DCB is now much more flexible," Burks said. "The rolling over of this amount allows more flexibility for students to use.

- As before, DCB can be used as an alternative to the student center vendors or to purchase additional meals in the cafeteria. This, in effect, retains a five-meal plan for students who only eat lunch in the cafeteria. With the 35 meal plan, the $200 DCB is enough to buy five meals per week in the cafeteria for the fall semester.

University inks Dell leasing deal

Ryan Cronk
Copy Editor

All university-owned computers will be replaced in a three-year rotation, under a new leasing agreement with Dell Computer Corporation.

Keith Cronk, chief information officer, said the agreement will make Dell the supplier of all university-owned IBM-compatible computers, including the computer labs, classrooms and faculty offices. He said Harding selected Dell after receiving bids from other major players in the computer industry, such as Compaq, IBM and Gateway.

"We wanted to form a partnership with a major supplier of PCs who has a reputation of being reliable," Cronk said.

Cronk said Harding has obtained nearly 200 new Dell computers for use throughout campus. The leasing agreement went into effect. It is approximately one-third of the estimated 600 IBM-compatible computers which Dell will supply under the agreement, replacing around 200 annually.

"We didn't want them to start to break," Cronk said. "The software that you're running now doesn't run on a three-year-old computer. The maintenance - the total cost of ownership - became too much.

Also, the new computers to be replaced were those in the computer lab on the first floor of the Mabee building.

"We had some really old computers," Cronk said. "We're trying to find the oldest computers and the slowest computers and replace them with new ones.

The standard lab computer, which is a 600 megahertz Pentium III Dell with 128 megabytes of memory and a 17-inch monitor, costs approximately $1,000, but Cronk said features such as faculty computers are flexible. He added that a key part of the agreement is the three-year parts and service guarantee. In other words, Dell will maintain the systems for Harding, which eliminates the need for the university to be in the computer repair business.

"We had no service agreement with your former supplier in Dallas," he said. "They were in and out, and Dell will make sure the hardware ourselves, which meant that we had to keep an inventory. I decided that was probably not the best business to be in.

The Dell agreement applies only to IBM-compatible systems. Certain departments, such as English and communication, use Apple Macintosh computers.

"We wanted to get the IBM-PC deal done first, because it's what most people use," Cronk said. "We certainly want to end up with the same arrangement for Macintosh computers."

Cronk said there is not as much flexibility because only Apple manufacturers make Macintosh computers.

Harding aids El Salvador earthquake victims

Sara Rabon
Staff Writer

Harding students have found several ways to help the victims of the devastating earthquake which occurred Jan. 13 in El Salvador.

The Student Association encouraged students to donate money to help the victims last week in chapel. Through the donations of students and faculty, the SA has raised more than $13,000. These funds will go toward building homes for the families that lost everything. This amount will erect nearly seven concrete blockhouses.

During the chapel presentation, students were also encouraged to send a letter to their home congregations requesting aid for the brethren in El Salvador.

A group of approximately 30 people from Harding are planning to spend their spring break in El Salvador, aiding the relief effort.

After planning to go to Honduras as they had the last several years, the group decided to switch to El Salvador to help with cleanup there. The campaign's plans are still being finalized, as they face obstacles including increased cost and obtaining government permission.

"I am anxious to head to Central America this March, and hope to get to go to El Salvador to help there in any way I can," junior Mark Ohrenberger, a veteran member of the team, said.

"I think helping out with relief for the people involved in this tragic disaster will be a great experience," sophomore Corey Briggs said.

The 7.6 magnitude quake's epicenter was in the small town of Santa Tecla, near San Salvador. Hundreds of thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake, and nearly a thousand people lost their lives. These losses have affected more than 1,200 Christians.

Numerous aftershocks have occurred regularly since the first earthquake, including a 6.6 magnitude temblor which killed 127 additional people Feb. 13.

Dr. Bill Richardson, associate professor of Bible, said his first reaction to the news of the earth...
Singly out

Writer's Block
Sarah Terry
Editor

Still seeing red after the midweek holiday? Being single on a day meant for couples may seem bizarre, but it's nothing like living the single life on the Harding campus, where engagements and ring ceremonies happen more often than most college students do locally.

If common phrases like 'three swings and a ring,' "the marriage factory," "ring by spring" or MRS. degree are any indication, recall the first day of chapel this semester when Dr. Burks went into the audience to answer the probing question, who got married during the Christmas break.

Later, when he asked an audience member to give a New Year's resolution, a brave soul said she resolved to 'stay single.' Good luck.

Being single isn't a disease, but becoming a couple seems to be happening often than most college students do locally. Harding campus, where engagements during the Christmas break. Harding students get married through a Harding marriage, just a holding pattern before marriage; two former Harding students who met in the fall of 1999.

Though it's an oddity around here, it's another for students, providing practical experience to enhance the quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. Editorials appearing in The Bison are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding community. The Bison is published weekly (except during breaks, test weeks and summer sessions) by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University, Box 11192, Searcy, AR 72149-0001. Contact The Bison office at 501-279-4139 or 501-279-4471 or send faxes to 501-279-4127.

Letters to the Editor

Former sports editor apologizes for actions

Dear Editor:

So many times in life, we are faced with tough decisions. Even though we try to train ourselves to distinguish between right and wrong, we are often overcome by the stresses of life and choose the wrong. Such is the case with me in recent weeks. I have thought of excuses for my actions and could fill this space with them, but when it comes down to the truth, I cannot evade this simple fact: What I did was wrong, and I am sorry for it.

There is no excuse for my actions now or any time in the future. I am guilty of a very shameful offense. Jeff McKeand, senior

Speak out: Do students have enough access to campus computers?

"Yes, but the computers in the Student Center often seem like they are down," Katie Grzebek, freshman

"No. When I try to use them they are down. It's frustrating when I have to do research," Terry Hallinan, sophomore

"I think students have enough computer access, but they really need to be upgraded," Tyreek Hany, junior

"I live off campus, and I use the computer labs on a regular basis to do homework." Hillary Creech, senior

The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited and managed 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 in responsibility to be accurate, fair, and objective in its reporting of unfolding Christian events, which are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Signed columns represent the personal views of the authors. The Bison is published weekly (except during breaks, test weeks and summer sessions) by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University, Box 11192, Searcy, AR 72149-0001, Contact The Bison office at 501-279-4139 or 501-279-4471 or send faxes to 501-279-4127. The Bison is online at www.harding.edu/thebison.
Gift of life
Kidney recipients increase awareness of organ donation

Chessey Ingram
 Staff Writer

Each day, twelve people die because they can't find a suitable organ donor. More than 70,000 people, including many children, are awaiting organ transplants at any given time.

Each year, on the Saturday before Valentine's Day, the Saturn Corporation and various nonprofit health organizations join together in an effort to save those lives. National Donor Day celebrated its fourth consecutive year nationwide Feb. 10.

Past celebrations have drawn more than 25,000 units of blood and adding 4,000 potential donors to the registry National Donor Day is the biggest event of its kind.

With such staggering numbers, many people know a person in need of an organ transplant, but few understand how easy it is to help. For a few members of the Harding family, organ donation is a personal subject.

Freshman Bryan Petrak, a 24-year-old transfer student from Pennsylvania, suffered kidney failure at the age of 22. He found a match in his 18-year-old brother, and they had surgery in September.

The successful transplant saved Petrak's life and kept him from further dialysis treatments, which he described as extremely painful.

"I have been able to do so much that I never thought I'd be able to do again," he said.

He wears a green ribbon on his backpack, symbolizing donor awareness.

"There's just not enough donors. There definitely needs to be more education about organ donation," Bill Gardner, husband of American Studies Institute office manager Cherri Gardner, wasn't an advocate of donor awareness until he had a kidney transplant Jan. 9.

"People don't think about donor awareness at all," he said. "I didn't until I had to."

His donor was a fellow Bible class member at the College Church of Christ, who felt it was his Christian duty to give an extra organ to save a life.

"I'm sitting here on the couch, and I can reach down and put my hand on where my kidney was and where his is now," Gardner said. "It's amazing."

Gardner said he feels connected to his donor in a special way.

"We have now become joined at the hip — literally," he said.

Having an organ transplant saved Gardner from further kidney dialysis as well.

"I'm not hooked up to a machine," he said. "It just makes your life different."

Organ donation does not have to be from a living donor to save a life. People can help by simply indicating their desire to be a donor when applying for a driver's license.

Junior Angela Fortune's mother was saved by a 22-year-old girl who died in a car accident. She had signed up to be an organ donor on her driver's license, allowing Fortune's mother to be saved by her kidney.

"You might as well give them away, because you can't take them with you," Fortune said.

The transplant, in March 1995, has helped her mother live for almost six years longer than expected, although the kidney is now in chronic rejection. Fortune plans to be tested during spring break to be a donor for a second transplant for her mother.

Barbara Statom, professor of business education, underwent a transplant in July 2000, after suffering from various kidney problems for 25 years before she learned she would need a new organ.

Her sister, Joan Inman, donated a kidney after her daughter and husband, Tom Statom, history professor, proved to be poor matches.

"If you can find a compatible living donor (rather than a recently deceased body), there's a greater chance for a successful transplant, " Statom said.

Although not the only cause of kidney failure, Statom stressed that staying healthy and getting a yearly health screening are key to avoiding such problems.

"People should first try to prevent failures by having a regular checkup," she said.

Statom advises people who are registered donors to tell their friends and family, so that if they suddenly die, their wishes will be honored.

"Organ donation is very important," Statom said. "This is a story that needs to get out."

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Internships give glimpse at post-college life

Positive, negative experiences offer learning opportunities, students say

Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series exploring the benefits of internships to future career success.

Hannah Rhodes
Staff Writer

As Harding University continues to develop its academic curriculum, more and more students are tackling job internships, discovering that learning is not confined to the classroom.

Much like education majors complete student teaching tenets, tackling job internships, discovering, providing insight into careers that classroom instruction cannot.

Senior Tiffany Yecke has just completed two internships: one with Jumbo Pictures in New York City, and another with the governor's office in Little Rock. This past summer, Yecke secured a position as Production Development Intern at Jumbo Pictures, which creates such animated shows as "Doug" and "Peanut Butter and Jelly Otters." Working 10-hour days, Yecke contacted animators and writers and coordinated them with the production company.

"As a capstone, Fager put together an entire marketing campaign for Nine-West department stores and presented it to the entire agency," Shaner said.

"It was a good start to my networking," Fager said. "To sit at the feet of industry leaders and learn from them was truly amazing."

Senior Matt Shaner also spent a summer in the Chicago area, interning at Edward Hospital in their marketing communications department.

"I was pretty much thrown to the wolves my first week there," Shaner said.

Filling in for an employee on leave, Shaner wrote press releases and announcements in various hospital committees, including the County Health Board Committee, the Y2K Committee and the Disaster Relief Committee.

"I like I got a lot of real world experience," Shaner said. "It gave me exposure to a broad range of areas. I got to perform a variety of tasks, both on the creative side and the business side."

Shaner took photos for an in-house publication, designed a letterhead for a fitness center operated by the hospital and wrote two articles for "Health Matters," a bi-monthly column that appeared in the local newspaper.

Senior Whitney Leach is currently working as an intern at KATV Channel 7, Little Rock's ABC affiliate. Leach follows reporters, types stories and has had the opportunity to perform various tasks such as conducting interviews and sitting in on committee meetings as the capitol.

"The news industry is very exciting," Leach said. "It's exactly what I want to do. This internship has allowed me to observe a newscast from all aspects."

"Having an internship is very important because it gives you insight into the actual workplace. It's a weaning process; you're not just thrown in deep end. You get a taste."

Whitney Leach, senior

Students use various methods to find jobs

Sarah Madden
Staff Writer

Many students are faced with what may be a nerve-racking task as they press into their junior and senior years finding an internship. Though not all majors require an internship, students seek them out for extra experience. Some students, however, wish that they could have been enrolled in "getting an internship 101."

"I'm nervous about getting an internship because, in my field [advertising], I'll have to go to Little Rock because I want good experience," junior Natasha Jaworski said. "I don't even know where to start."

Jaworski is like many other students on campus. When they think of doing their internship, they get scared and don't know where to begin.

Senior Tiffany Johnstone began looking for her summer internship last semester.

"I am one of those people that like to know what I'm going to be doing," Johnstone said. "I'm glad I didn't wait."

Johnston said she found an internship on her own but got help from faculty.

"I talked to my advisors and then just went out on my own," she said. "To me, it's one of those things I just felt I had to do on my own, but I needed their help on how to contact them and make the connections that I needed."

"I was anxious that I wasn't going to find something, I wanted to find something that was perfect for me, because the whole purpose of an internship is to get experience in the field that you want to work in. That's why I got started early," Senior Chad Tappe who completed his internship on campus, went about it from a different approach. Tappe was able to work in the吸附剂办公室 and find out about a graduate assistantship, that he later used as an internship.

"I was worried about how I was going to get something on campus because most are in Little Rock," Tappe said.

"By doing the one that I did, I was able to stay on campus and not have to quit any of my social activities."

After talking with his advisor, senior Mac Bell began looking in March 2000 for his summer internship by going online.

"Dr. Shuck told me that it would be good to do my internship at Stone and Ward [advertising agency in Little Rock], so I got on their web site and contacted some people," Bell said. "I figured out who was doing the hiring and kept e-mailing her until I got the job."
Jaren Page
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is the 11th in a continuing series featuring unique members of the Harding community.

Hundreds of students have spent semesters abroad through Harding's international programs. Between the Florence, Italy, Athens, Greece; London, England and Brisbane, Australia campuses, many lives are affected.

One student on campus has been an important part of the international studies program in Florence, Italy. Sophomore David Shackelford has spent most of his life overseas growing up with Italian friends in an Italian school.

For the first five years of his life, Shackelford lived in Dallas, then moved to Searcy for a year. At the age of seven, his father, Robbie Shackelford, moved his family to Italy to serve as the Director of Harding University in Florence.

Robbie, son of Dr. Don Shackelford, dean of International Studies, spent much of his youth in Italy because of missionary work that his parents did. He was anxious to take the job and knew that his wife Mona and two sons, David and Jonathan, a freshman at Harding Academy, would be happy there.

"Since I moved at such an early age I always say that I grew up in Scandinavia," Shackelford said. "I have very faded memories of my years in America."

Shackelford's first language was English but, after moving to Italy, he soon picked up that tongue.

"My first day of school was very scary because there were a bunch of wild kids that spoke a language that I'd never heard," he said. "I didn't even know how to say hello and ended up crying all the way home. That summer I was tutored four days a week for five hours a day and when I returned to school in the fall my teachers were impressed. Italian has always been a strong subject for me since then."

Shackelford spent the next decade of his life in Florence developing friendships with kids from school and with Harding students that were constantly in and out of his life.

"The best part of being a part of the HUF program every semester was seeing the look on the faces of the new students at the villa three times a year," he said. "The worst part was having to say goodbye three times a year."

Shackelford attended Italian schools until the fall of his junior year, when he returned to Searcy and attended Harding Academy. He planned to finish high school in America but ended up leaving at the beginning of his second semester that year.

"I missed home," he said. "Italy was all I knew."

Upon returning to Searcy two years later, Shackelford enrolled at Harding University as an international business and French major. He is a member of Knights social club, Pi Sigma Epsilon and is involved in intramural sports.

Will Shackelford follow in his father's footsteps as director of HUF in the future?

"I usually say no to that question," he said. "Honestly, I can see myself doing it but no one will ever do a better job than my dad. He and my mom are perfect for the job."

"I have been so blessed to be a part of the lives of so many incredible students. They have all influenced me and helped me become the person I am today ... I have definitely had a unique life that I love."

David Shackelford, sophomore

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February 16, 2001

News

The Bison

Faces in the Crowd

Raised at HUF, sophomore adjusts to Searcy campus life
Infamous site paces online journalism

Mac Bell
Staff Writer

K HCA’s newest show, “The Groove,” is Brooking’s responsive and promoting original material from musicians on the Harding campus.

“The Groove” features a live interview of the featured band of the week.

Our format is a two-hour show about flat-out student music, said host James Canterbury, also known as TV16’s “The Weather Daddy.”

The Tuesday night show has been on the air for three weeks on Harding’s TV16 and has received a number of phone calls, e-mails and website hits in its first few weeks.

Canterbury said the key to the show is keeping the viewers connected to the music.

“The main focus is the people who make the music and the people who listen,” Reaction to the show has been overwhelming, Canterbury said.

People have been really responsive,” he said. “It’s kind of bewildering.”

The show has averaged almost 30 phone calls for requests and band information during each show.

“We have even received calls from older people in White County,” freshman Steve Thompson, a production assistant, said. “An older woman called during the show where we featured Addictive and complimented them on their music.”

The first hour of the show, from 10-11 p.m., is devoted to taking requests for Harding-produced music.

At 11 p.m., Canterbury interviews the featured band and plays their music.

The show wraps up with requests and additional information about Harding bands until midnight.

“The Groove” features a variety of music from rock to country, Christian to rhythm and blues.

“It’s not the type of music that is produced,” Canterbury said. “It’s that it is Harding-produced.”

In its first few weeks, “The Groove” has featured the musical talent of Brother Jacob, the hard rock sounds of Addictive and blues guitarist Van Johnson.

“I wanted to get Van Johnson on the show because he is one of the most exceptional guitar players that Harding has on campus,” Canterbury said.

After playing on “The Groove,” Addictive became the first band to sign with Magma Productions. Brother Jacob has signed with Magma as well.

Future shows will highlight the Christian sounds of “Crimson Clear” and the Caribbean vocal stylings of senior Wayne Pascall.

We have even received calls from older people in White County. An older woman called during the show where we featured Addictive and complimented them on their music.

We encourage viewers to get in their requests to tv16groove@hotmail.com or visit their website at www.excape.com/tv16groove and sign the guest book to send in requests.

The web site has pictures and additional information about bands that have been on “The Groove” as well as information about who is going to be on upcoming shows.

“As soon as the show is over, James has the pictures on the website,” Thompson said.

“This is really cool because everyone wants to know what they look like after they just heard their music.”

Groups who would like to hear their music played on “The Groove” may send in a good-quality compact disc or mini disc to Canterbury at Box 11873.
Bisons make perfection look easy in 3-0 start

Michael Chaffin
Staff Writer

The Bison baseball season is off to a perfect start, with the Bisons sitting at a 3-0 record heading into today's doubleheader.

The Bisons play today against LeMoyne-Owen in Memphis, sweeping a doubleheader from the Bisons home run three times in Saturday's rout, including twice in a nine-run third inning. Senior J.D. Noye and Drennon both came away with five RBIs.

Drennon, a transfer from Panola College, got his first hit as a Bison in the third, hitting a line drive over the left field fence. Later in the inning, Drennon hit a bases-loaded double, giving him five RBIs in the inning.

Senior Phil Gisel took the pitcher's mound for his 38th career game, second most all-time for Harding. After a rocky second inning, Gisel went on to strike out nine batters and allowed only four hits in five innings to get the win. The Missouri native is only three strikeouts away from 200 in his career, and five short of Harding's career strikeout record. Gisel now has a 2-0 record with his first win coming in the second game of the doubleheader against Williams Baptist.

In the fourth, the Bisons put six more runs on the board, capped by a grand slam by Noye, following a senior Mike Huthrner RB single and a bases loaded walk to freshman Morgan Trotter. Harding's offense pounded a total 15 hits against the Eagles, including nine off their starter. Every Bison in the starting lineup had at least one hit, and five had two hits or more.

The Bisons attribute their early season success to the support of head coach Shane Fullerton and assistant coach Ryan Rana. "Coach Fullerton has really been preparing us for each game by studying scouting reports and watching videos with us," junior Ben James said.

Some of the top times for the indoor season include senior Bershard Tillman's 6.63 sec. 55-meter dash, sophomore Tyler Kemmerer's 51.12 sec. 400-meter dash, sophomore Dustin Knudson's 4:31.06 mile run and sophomore Josh Kirby's 19 foot, 7 inch long jump.

Freshman Ryan Bond may qualify for nationals today in hurdles. "I feel pretty confident," Bond said. "We have good training. It's just a matter of getting out there and performing. We have the coaching and training, it's just getting focused and doing what needs to be done." Bond said that although Central Missouri is tough competition, every team has one or two go-to guys who can run with the best.

With the indoor season almost over, Phillips is looking to the outdoor season. "We have a better chance to qualify for the outdoor nationals — the season is longer and it is easier to train," Phillips said.

The outdoor season will start March 15 with a meet at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark. The outdoor national track meet will be held in May in Evansville, Ill.

Athlete Johnson/The Bison

Junior designated hitter Ben James celebrates with teammates after scoring one of his two runs in the Bisons' nine-run third inning.

Juniors reach nationals, look ahead to outdoor season

Myca Haynes
Staff Writer

This year's indoor track season is coming to a conclusion, with two team members already qualified for indoor nationals.

The last indoor meet before nationals is today at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo. The Division II indoor national track meet will be held in Boston, Mass., March 9-10.

The biggest competition at today's meet will be Central Missouri, head coach Bryan Phillips said. Phillips, who has been head coach since 1990, believes that at least three other members of the team will qualify today for the nationals.

"We have a strong group of distance runners with the girls, and the guys are strong all the way through," he said. "The keys to the rest of the season will be overall team performance, training well, staying injury free and healthy.

The two team members who have already qualified for nationals are freshman Hanna Ritakallio in the mile run (5 minutes, 3.82 seconds) and in the 800-meter dash (2:12.05) and senior Linus Chepkwony in the 3000 meters.
Rhode Rowdies react to a timely three-point basket. Throughout the season, Harding has maintained the highest average attendance in the conference.

Retraction

Some sports columns that appeared in recent issues of The Bison have been plagiarized works of a professional journalist and were printed without consent. The Bison apologizes for this unprofessional and unethical action. The Round & Round column has been discontinued and appropriate actions have been taken.

Ryan Cook
Copy Editor

Editor’s Note: This article originally appeared in the Feb. 6 issue of The Daily Citizen.

Although the Harding Bisons are new to the Gulf South Conference this season, their legendary basketball fans—the “Rhodes Rowdies” — have already made a name for themselves throughout the new league.

Enough of a name, in fact, to bring GSC Commissioner Nate Salant to Rhodes Field House Monday, Feb. 5.

“I think it’s probably the best atmosphere of any of the schools in the conference right now,” he said. “It’s comparable to West Alabama, although their seating capacity is much smaller than [Harding’s].”

Although the Rowdies did not have as much as usual to cheer about during the Bisons’ and Lady Bisons’ losses to Henderson State, Salant was still impressed with the announced crowd of 1,746.

Through the HSU games, the Bisons led the conference in home attendance by a wide margin. In its first nine home games, Harding averaged 1,794 fans at each men’s game, 500 better than second-place Central Arkansas.

“Nobody has a building this size with this atmosphere, with this level of intensity right now,” he said.

The Bisons and Lady Bisons have certainly used the atmosphere to their advantage since the Rhodes was renovated prior to the 1997-98 season. Since then, the Bisons have gone 31-17 at home, while the ladies have gone 35-16 (prior to Thursday’s home games against Christian Brothers).

Salant had been to the Harding campus before, but the HSU games were his first HSU athletic events. Some opposing teams had complained about the Rowdies’ behavior, including sitting too close to the court, but Salant said he did not see any problems.

“A lot of the other athletic directors around the conference were bugging me to give [Athletic Director] Greg Harnden a hard time about his fan behavior,” he said. “I think it’s great. It reminds me of when I was in college [at the State University of New York at Albany]. It would get packed to the roof. You couldn’t hear yourself think. You couldn’t talk to the person sitting next to you because of the intensity. The octave level is just through the roof.”

Salant said Rhodes was a bit warm, but that was his only complaint.

“Being a spectator and going to games is supposed to be fun,” he said. “Some of these people want to turn it into tennis where you sit on your hands and you can’t speak. If you can’t cheer and have a good time, why go?

“If you don’t see anybody making any obscene gestures or carrying on in an inappropriate way. If some fans came on to the court, they would be out of here in a moment, because [Harding] does not stand for that anymore.”

Most GSC coaches and players love visiting Rhodes Fieldhouse, Salant said.

“Most of them feel that their teams play better when they come here because of the high level of intensity and the fan activity,” he said. “When you go to some of the buildings, they don’t draw anywhere near this number of people. Or, if they do, it’s in a more sterile atmosphere where the stands are further away from the court or it’s new construction with very high roof and absorbing insulation.”

NCAA Men’s Basketball
(all games Saturday, Feb. 17)

- 2 Stanford vs. California
- 6 Kansas vs. Iowa State
- 8 Arizona vs. USC
- 18 Maryland vs. Wake Forest

NBA Basketball
(all games Saturday, Feb. 17)

- Cleveland vs. Houston
- Charlotte vs. Milwaukee
- Boston vs. Portland
- Utah vs. Sacramento

NHL Hockey
(all games Saturday, Feb. 17)

- Washington vs. Montreal
- Colorado vs. Toronto
- New Jersey vs. Buffalo
- Vancouver vs. Edmonton

HU Men’s Basketball
Guess the score of Monday’s home game.

- Ouachita Baptist vs. Harding

2/2 Sports Challenge winner: Blaine Tucker

*Editor’s picks are in bold.