

Inside

Dorm Security

Additional security measures were instituted in the men's dorms this week. For more on the story, including an explanation from Roddy Motte, assistant dean of students, see page three.

'Good Doctor'

"The Good Doctor" kicked off the 2001-2002 HU theater schedule last weekend. The show continues tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. For more information and a semester theater schedule, see page six.

In brief

• Operation Lend-A-Hand will be collecting new and used school supplies, including paper and pencils, to send to a rural high school in Kenya starting this week and running through Oct. 22. Collection boxes are in dorm lobbies. For further information, call Liz Nichols at 279-3690.

• The Walton Family Foundation of Bentonville recently announced a $700,000 grant to Harding toward the school's current $12 million capital campaign. The foundation made the grant in honor and appreciation of the ongoing support provided to Hard­ing by Paul and June Carter of Bentonville. The Carters also recently gave to the campaign an associate of Wal-Mart since 1977 and a member of Harding’s board of trustees, Paul J. Carter currently serves as chairman of Harding’s board of trustees and as president of the Wal-Mart Realty Company.

"Paul and June Carter have made significant contributions to the growth and development of Harding University, and to Wal-Mart, as well," said Bob Watts, chairman of the board of Wal-Mart stores and a member of the foundation’s board. "We are proud to have the opportunity to honor these outstanding citizens of Northwest Arkansas."

• Spring Break Campaigns 2002 were kicked off Monday in chapel. More than 500 students have already signed up for one of the 33 campaigns, including a new one to Fairbanks, Alaska, which was not announced Monday. At least 12 of the campaigns are full, so those interested in going on a SBC should sign up in President David Burks' office in the Heritage Center as soon as possible.

• Tickets for the Homecoming musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," are on sale Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Benson Auditorium ticket window. Tickets are $7 and free with the pass. The performances will be Nov. 2 at 8:15 p.m. and Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

• If you have briefs or story ideas that you would like to see in The Bison, send them to thebison@harding.edu or call 259-4741.

Students called to active duty

Harpy said that even though he is not going to Afghanistan, his unit is helping in the war against terrorist groups. "This is a benefit to me so we can find justice," he said. "This is what I can do for my country."

Harpy's family is concerned and upset, but some of his family members have been in the military and said they know what to expect while he is gone.

Darden, a 4-year member of the Guard, is enlisted as an infantryman and doesn't know what the Guard will be doing when it arrives in Egypt.

"I'm ready to head over," Darden said. "I'm not scared or afraid, but I'm not happy, either. I want to go over, do the job and come home. It's been rough trying to notify everyone that I'm supposed to be leaving, but Dr. Burns and Harding have helped in every possible way."

Darden's family is concerned about his leaving with the battalion, but his father is a veteran and was able to offer some advice.

Darden said the biggest reaction to his family's knowledge of his leaving in concern that Harding students, fac­ulty, area churches and community members have shown to him. "I'm going to pray for you," is a statement that Darden has heard often in the past few days, he said.

My friends want to know where I'm going, what's going on and what I'll be doing," Darden said.

Some area churches will be sending care packages to their members periodically while they are in Egypt. Right now, the guardsmen are filling out paperwork, filing for passports and waiting on the signature they need.

Not only will the guardsmen have to experience a transition from civilian life to military life, but their families will also have to endure a similar transition.

The recruiting center at Searcy's Guard post will become a "Family Assistance Center," offering such things as computers for family members to e-mail their loved ones.

"We help them (make the tran­sition from civilian to military life," Sgt. 1st Class Tony Bowen said. "We are here to help them with any problems that might occur."

Simmons First Bank will be honoring the guardsmen in a cer­emony beginning at noon Mon­day at the Town & Country Plaza in Searcy. The guardsmen and their families will be served lunch at 11:45 a.m. and the public ceremony at noon will follow with speeches by local dignitaries.

University students and the community are invited to the cer­emony on Monday to show support and wish the guardsmen well.

Local youth trek to NYC to encourage rescue workers

"They worried more about the people at the other stations than at their own," Timms said. "The fire department in New York decided a few months ago to be more like a family. So they changed their letters from NYFD, like the police depart­ment, to FONY. Fire department first — then New York City."

Fire stations sold shirts and patches in an effort to raise money for the families of those from the department who lost their lives.

"It was amazing — their concern for others," Timms said. "They were humble heroes."

She said the second group met a man who had actually been pulled from the rubble.

Timms said her group joined hands with one last fire department to pray the day before they returned home — an experience that left a lasting impression on her.

"It's a once-in-a-life experience that you only want to happen once," she said. "You never want anything to happen like this again."
Our view: Community billing sparks debate

In an effort to make Harding men better aware of their responsibilities as residents of campus housing, the University’s male population has been susceptible to community billing for the last two years. Under the community billing policy, a flat fee is charged to each person living in a dorm for intentional damages caused by one or more of its residents. If something is stolen or destroyed in a dorm, each resident is required to pay up if no single person or group bears the brunt of the responsibility for the act. "The dorms need to be viewed as a community," said Roddy Mote, assistant dean of students. "When no one steps forth to take responsibility for the act, the community billing serves as the taxes paid by the residents in a certain place for a certain purpose."

Mote said that while no one student will be charged more than $100 in community billing per academic year, the billing system was instituted to handle more extreme situations like igniting fireworks in a dorm or rampant vandalism.

Generally, Harding men don’t like the idea behind community billing. But the equally detestable idea of unwelcome thieves looting our dorms is a much more frightening prospect.

There has to be a way to police those types of incidents, he said.

In the two years the system has been up and running, Mote said his office has only exercised its community billing policy four times.

It’s Mote’s hope that the billing will make the men on campus act on a more heightened state of awareness, forcing them to better control what happens in their home away from home.

Because this is the case, everyone, from residence assistants to residence life coordinators, not just the residents, should pay more attention to what takes place in the men’s residence halls.

Case in point: When nearly 20 industrial rugs were stolen from some of the men’s dorms, in addition to a new, large, decorative rug from Graduate Hall (valued at $250), residents of the dorms thought to be the guilty culprits and were, thus, threatened with community billing. Only after Mote’s office discovered that the rugs were stolen by men living off-campus was the situation remedied justly.

Generally, Harding men don’t like the idea behind community billing. But the equally detestable idea of unwelcome thieves looting our dorms is a much more frightening prospect. Because of this valid fear, the population of each dorm should be on high alert.

And while community billing has its merits (it’s implemented by several other universities in the region, according to Mote) it might be difficult to assess when it’s the most appropriate form of punishment—especially if outside forces from off-campus are involved.

Lauren Conklin

Letter to the editor: A special prayer

Editor’s note: This letter was written shortly after the terrorist attacks. It was submitted this week in honor of the fallen firefighters in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Yesterday, Sept. 11, 2001, a faceless coward struck terror in the hearts of Americans. As the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon became engulfed in flames, hundreds of firefighters, my brothers, were called to rescue thousands of innocent victims. As a firefighter myself, it is understood that every time you are called to duty, in the back of your mind you know that this may very well be the last call you answer. There is something special, not only about firefighters, but any medical or law enforcement personnel, as well. It is love that grows deep within your soul. It’s a love and need to help and serve, not only your fellow Americans, but any human in need. As I watched the horrific events unfold, I saw firefighters stare into the gates of hell. And how did they react? Putting their own safety aside, they charged into the burning inferno. Many of them would never return.

I would like to share with you “The Firefighter’s Prayer.” It’s a prayer that we not only pray, but also use to give outsiders an insight into the mentality of those who put their lives on the line every day, just for you.

“The Firefighter’s Prayer”

“When I am called to duty, God, whenever flames may rage, give me the strength to save some life, whatever be its age.”

Megan Coyle, freshman

Help me embrace a little child before it’s too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect his property.

And, if according to my fate, I lose my life this day, please bless with your protecting hand my family, this I pray.

May the souls of those who died in this great tragedy rest in peace. Let us not forget the words that were spoken by President George W. Bush: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...” Psalms 23:4

In Him,

Ben Summers, junior

Speak out: What is your response to this week’s attacks by the United States?

"[There was] too much press coverage; too much information was released publicly.”

Justin Patterson, junior

"I don’t think it’s right to do the exact thing that they did, but [Osama bin Laden] does need to be punished.”

Suzanne Lewis, freshman

"I think it’s appropriate because they did not make the men on campus act on a more heightened state of awareness, forcing them to better control what happens in their home away from home.”

Megan Coyle, freshman

"[It was] a good retaliation to action to the events of Sept. 11. I’m just worried that we are going to get in too deep.”

Tyler Matlock, senior

The Bison is a campus newspaper, written 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 their skills in the classroom. The Bison recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University stands. It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards. Editorials appearing in The Bison 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, whereas unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board. The Bison is published weekly (except during breaks, test weeks and summer sessions) by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149. Subscription rates: $30 per year; Second class postage (USPS 579766) paid at Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University, 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 on-line at www.harding.edu/bison.
Men's dorms tighten security

Jeffrey Hunter
Staff writer

Alarms could be heard all over campus this week as students tried to adjust to new security measures in men's residence halls. The measures went into effect Monday.

The alarms, which are just one part of an extensive security plan at Harding, were implemented by administrators to protect the campus against theft and vandalism.

"We have had bad cases of burglary and other crimes in the dormitories as a result of a lack of a proper security system," said Roddy Mote, assistant dean of students. "The alarms will help keep these people out."

In addition to the alarms, desk workers will also be in place in each dorm lobby starting at noon, and additional security guards will also be in place in dormitories as a result of a lack of administrators to protect the campus, were implemented by administrators to protect the campus against theft and vandalism.

"The system that has been put in place is to help protect the students who live in the dorms and residence halls," Mote said. "And by making the residence halls more secure, we are making the entire campus more secure."

The alarms, which are activated on the end doors at 6 p.m. and the main doors an hour after curfew, are designed to help protect the residence halls and surrounding areas.

"The system is the result of a proposal of new security measures that was made by the assistant dean of students to the administration last spring. At that time, a key-card entry system was suggested, but the cost was too high, Mote said.

"If we do this as just a way to enforce curfew, we would have seen it put in place 20 years ago."

Residents needing to leave a dormitory before the alarm is activated at 6 a.m. can request a code from their residence life coordinator.

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"This is all just really inconvenient," sophomore Lance Pettillo said. "Keeping the doors locked from the outside at all times and setting the alarms at 6 p.m. is just illogical because the front door is just not convenient."

And while administrators acknowledge the new security measures may be inconvenient, they ask for cooperation during the transition.

"This will take some adjustment," Wannie Lemmons, residence life coordinator for Armstrong Hall, said. "But if everyone acts like an adult and does what they are supposed to do, then it shouldn't be such a bad change."

In Armstrong Hall alone, the alarm was set off more than 70 times in five hours on Monday. "Setting off the alarms intentionally is not the answer," Lemmons said.

While tampering with the alarm system will result in community billing for the entire residence hall, a specific punishment has not been determined. "At some point in time, we will have to come up with a policy to deal with those breaking the rules," Mote said. "Until then, we will try to be understanding because this is a huge transition."

The new system is the result of a proposal of new security measures that was made by the assistant dean of students to the administration last spring. At that time, a key-card entry system was suggested, but the cost was too high, Mote said.

"We see [key card entry] as the ideal method of securing the dorms," Mote said. "In time, this will occur. Until then, we are taking this progressive step."

Although exact figures were unavailable, administrators said the cost of the security project, including the alarms, security officers and desk workers, was high.

"It was a tremendous expense, but we see it as a benefit," Mote said. "It helps secure the residence hall, makes our campus a safer place and the new desk worker policy has created more student employment."

Administrators are quick to contradict claims that the new security system is a way to enforce curfew.

"This is for security reasons only," Mote said. "If we were doing this as just a way to enforce curfew, you would have seen it put in place 20 years ago."

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HU sophomore dies from liver failure

Harding student Dara Anne Cossey died of liver failure Saturday. A sophomore graphic design and public relations major from Cabot, Cossey was 23.

Visitation was held Tuesday at Cabot Funeral Home; her funeral was Wednesday at the Cabot Church of Christ.

Harding faculty and students including Dr. Debroe Carson, assistant vice president for student services; Dr. Randy McLeod, dean of the College of Business Administration; and Al Frazier, assistant professor of business, attended the funeral.

Cossey had liver problems for many years. She attended classes last Thursday, but stayed home sick Friday.

She first attended Harding in the fall semester of 1996, but had been going to Arkansas State University-Beebe for some classes since then.

She enrolled at Harding again this fall as a full-time student.

Cossey is survived by her parents, Brady and Lori Cossey; a brother, Seth Taylor Cossey and four grandparents.

Her parents have established a scholarship fund in her name at Community Bank in Cabot.

Memorial donations may be made to the Dara A. Cossey Scholarship Fund, c/o Community Bank, P.O. Box 1028, Cabot, AR, 72023.

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Managing money for people with other things to think about.*
A different approach to missions doesn't require learning a foreign language or moving to another country is experiencing rapid growth on the Harding campus.

Offered only as a second major, the vocational ministry program is designed for students who choose not to major in Bible, but still want training in church development, missions, youth ministry or other areas of Biblical study.

This growth is seen as the body of Christ is a full-time ministry, Cochran said.

"By adding six or seven extra Bible classes, you have the vocational ministry second major."

Additionally, many majors require a minor of 18 hours. The vocational ministry major requires 17 hours beyond the Bible requirement to make up a minor.

The major allows students flexibility to take courses in their area of interest as well as giving them a strong base of general Biblical knowledge, Cochran said.

Students in Dr. Ross Cochran's Vocational Ministry class share their papers with each other Tuesday. The course, which is the capstone for the vocational ministry major, has 31 students enrolled this semester.

"I'm very encouraged and amazed by the level of desire for this program," Cochran said.

"We're opening a new face to the discussion of domestic and vocational missions."

"By adding six or seven extra Bible classes, you have the vocational ministry second major."

"We're increasing the intentionality of that message."

Crawson is already working with 16 teams of students planning domestic mission teams. Groups are forming with plans to move to Los Angeles, Chicago and other major metropolitan areas, particularly in the Northeast.

Senior Jason and Leah Tomlinson plan to move to Los Angeles in January 2000.

"We're planning a cell-based ministry, reaching people in our workplaces," Jason Tomlinson said.

His wife, Leah, an elementary education major, echoed that plan.

"I plan to teach middle school math and science; specifically, in an inner-city school," she said. "I plan to use my [job and] the teacher's lounge as my mission field. I want to be an example to kids [and] get involved in their lives and with their parents."

The Tomlinsons' group includes juniors Brett and April Emerson, as well as other team members already settled in San Dimas, Calif.

Seniors Jason Ashlock and Sh-annon Cooper, along with Harding graduates Steven Hovater and Chad Tape, also plan to live and serve God in the same area.

It's a long-term plan," Ashlock said. "Eventually, we want to form a community of Christians modeled after those in Acts, where we have 'all things in common,' supporting each other. Basically, we hold the light of Christ is best seen through community."

"We can't assume our friendships have to end," Ashlock said. "We think about the possibility that God can use us, working together, for more than these four years of college."
New major prepares students for demanding, technical field

Kerri Biederman
Staff writer

The Department of Communication is offering a new major to accommodate students seeking to enter the fast-paced world of technology.

The department is offering an interactive media major designed to prepare students seeking employment in the areas of online, interactive and active communication.

Dr. Mike James, communications department chairman, said this major was created out of necessity. Last year there were 220,000 unfilled jobs in the field of interactive media.

"The need for information technology people will not slow down," James said. "It will grow very, very fast. ... There is a need for students who want to be trained in Internet technology. This major will prepare students for work in all areas of this new field."

The new major is multidisciplinary and combines communication, computer science, business and graphic design to prepare students to be well-rounded professionals in the interactive arena.

Each student can choose to concentrate in one of four areas by using 12 of their 45 major hours to develop skills in their chosen field, while also establishing a background in all four.

The major will give students the essential skills to fill the needs of the new market, James said.

Students choose from a variety of classes including graphic design, marketing, cyberspace communication and computer programming. Each class is designed to prepare students for jobs in digital communication.

Junior Matt Savage is one of 32 students who have chosen this interactive media as their major.

"I am excited about this because it offers a broader job range for me."

Matt Savage, junior

range for me," he said. "Instead of just choosing advertising or public relations, I can go into any field and work on their Web-based and online business."

The major gives students the skills to work in a wide range of jobs. Some of the anticipated employers include: graphic design firms, magazine publishers, music industries, free lance producers, sports teams, film industries, among others, James said.

The interactive media major allows students to take classes in four different departments. Savage said he is looking forward to taking a variety of classes and having a diverse background of knowledge that opens the door for more vocational options.

James said he is also anticipating the future of this major.

"There is a need for interactive professionals, so I am excited about what this major can offer our students," he said.

Currently, James is in charge of the program, but is also in the process of hiring a new professor to lead the program next year. Some of the course work will be learned through team teaching techniques across departments. This will be a change from some of the more traditional programs because this major will include classes from more than one of the university's colleges.

"I am looking forward to the possibilities this major will offer me as the program grows," Savage said. "Right now, we just have a few classes aimed at the Internet, but ... we are all looking forward to what is in store."

For more information, contact the communications department at 279-4445.
The movie "Shrek" isn't your ordinary fairy tale. It's inventive humor, inside jokes and references to other movies gently, and sometimes bitingly, poke fun at traditional animated movies.

Handing students can see "Shrek" in the Benson Auditorium this weekend. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Little Theater. Tickets are $4 and are available in the communication department or at the door before either show.

Senior Adam Sullivan co-directed the comedy with faculty member Robin Miller, associate professor of communication.

"Directing 'The Good Doctor' was my senior seminar, which is a project assigned to senior theater majors by the program faculty," Sullivan said. "It's designed to focus on the student's area of expertise, so we can use our strengths but also be challenged to improve in areas that are lacking."

The senior seminar system also allows for mentoring opportunities, according to Sullivan.

In previous years, directing senior seminars were evaluated occasionally, but now there's more of a mentoring and co-directing approach," Sullivan said. "It allows our teachers to give us a prompt in the right direction and makes for a greater learning curve. The quality of the system and products has improved."

"The Good Doctor" has benefited under the system, Sullivan said.

The play, an episodic comedy, consists of short pieces tied together by brief transitional narration. Tying together the unrelated pieces forms one continuous story to Sullivan's first challenge. However, meetings with Miller and Dr. Morrell Ellis, professor of communication, provided a new approach to the play.

Instead of the scenes needing a narrator, in our presentation he's serving in the background so that Lord Farquaad can marry her. If Shrek succeeds, he is guaranteed his swamp will be returned to its former peaceful state.

A cast of experienced actors and actresses provides the characters' voices. Mike Myers, well known from "Saturday Night Live," as well as movies like "Wayne's World," provides the voice for the title character. Other actors and actresses involved in the film are Cameron Diaz (Princess Fiona), John Lithgow (Lord Farquaad) and Eddie Murphy (Donkey).

The animation done in the same style as Disney's "Toy Story," except the technology has advanced quite a bit since that time.

The film is not a masterpiece and will probably not ever be a classic. However, that's not to say it's not a fine family entertainment.

The story line is interesting and contains some surprises, the animation is extremely advanced and the cast is well chosen.

Although it is catered to a younger crowd, the amount of inside jokes and references to other films is enough to keep a more educated crowd laughing, as well.

"Shrek" is a well-done, light-hearted comedy that doesn't take itself too seriously.

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It is a well-done, light-hearted comedy that doesn't take itself too seriously.

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Lady Bisons move to No. 2

Brandi Kelly
Staff writer

The Lady Bisons' victory over Arkansas Tech last Thursday ended ATU's 27-match Gulf South Conference winning streak.

This match, which lasted nearly two and a half hours, put an end to Harding's 11-match losing streak against Tech, which dated back to 1996.

The ladies won the first game, 30-28, after rallying back after being down 21-14. The second game ended 30-28, Arkansas Tech won games two and three, but the Lady Bisons answered back with a winning game four.

The ladies were down as many seven points in game four, 13-6, but rallied back to win 11 of the next 15 points. Junior Leslie Hollingsworth's kill at the net ended Harding's run.

The fifth game was a back-and-forth, one-point battle until Hollingsworth brought home the win with her 17th kill of the game. The ladies won the match, 3-2.

Sophomore Shailla Farley led the defense with a match-high 30 digs.

Although Tech had an 87-57 advantage in kills, the ladies countered with solid defensive play tallying 109 digs and 10 blocks. This was Harding's first match this season with three players with 20 or more digs.

The Lady Bisons' match against Ouachita Baptist was postponed due to referee conflicts. The match will be rescheduled for a later date.

The next home match is scheduled for a later date.

“I’m very proud of the team this year and very happy with the way things are going. I didn’t really know what to expect from this year’s team because they were a young team.”

Coach Keith Giboney

Freshman Leanne Lackey jumps to block the oncoming spike from an opposing Arkansas Tech player. Lackey has recorded 161 kills and 147 digs during her first season as a Lady Bison.

“I’m very confident in the team to do well,” Farley said. “I believe we’ll do as well in the second round of conference play as we did in the first round.”

The Lady Bisons have their sights set on the upcoming Henderson State match. Provided the ladies win their next three matches, a win against HSU would potentially push the Lady Bisons into first place in the Gulf South Conference.

“Game will be better because it is in our home court,” Giboney said. “I think we have a good chance to beat Henderson here.”

Henderson State, now 5-0, beat Harding by a slim margin, with only six more kills and three more digs than the Lady Bisons.

The ladies will square off against Arkansas Tech and Henderson State at home Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

‘Madness’ in the making

Rodney Keeton
Sports editor

Monday night kicks off the Bison Basketball season with the seventh annual Midnight Madness. The festivities begin at 10:30 p.m. in the Rhodes Field House.

Midnight Madness signifies the first official day of basketball practice allowed by the NCAA. Teams are not allowed to practice until October 15. Players and students gather at 8:30 p.m. with the “university” to recognize this event with a variety of activities.

“We’re all hoping to make it even more energetic and fun than last year,” sophomore Adam Bledsoe said. Bledsoe will be the master of ceremonies for the night.

“It’s just a really great way to get students and the community excited about basketball,” he said.

Some of the events planned for the night include club competitions, three-on-three championship games, the Bison slam dunk contest and a half-court shot for half tuition.

“There are a lot of great give-away items this year,” coach Jeff Morgan said. “The community really did a great job of donating things to give away.”

Morgan said that coming off the stress of midterm tests, Midnight Madness is an excellent way to let loose. He encourages students to come out and just have a good time.

“Midnight Madness has taken on the role of Bison basketball’s way of showing its appreciation to the students and community for all their support,” he said.

The Bison and Lady Bison basketball teams and Morgan are excited about their season and look forward to kicking it off with the Rhodes Rowdies, Morgan said.

The night’s activities will conclude with scrimmage games by the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

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Cross country still in the running

Patrick Hernandez
Staff writer

Harding’s cross country teams are striving towards national competition, easing past each meet they enter. The Lady Bisons stomped to victory Oct. 6 at the Rhodes Invitational in Memphis. After spending two weeks bike riding and swimming while recovering from a muscle injury, sophomore Hanna Ritakallio was able to lead the team to victory, finishing second overall with a time of 18:58 in the 5K race. “I’m glad my leg is better,” she said. “The team is really motivating.”

The Bisons had five finishers in the top 15. “This is the first time the girls have run together since the first meet because of several small injuries and it’s great that they’re really beginning to run as a team,” coach Bryan Phillips said. On Sept. 22, Harding’s men finished fifth, placing ahead of 21 Division I schools in the Great American Cross Country Festival. The Bisons are ranked first in the South Central Region and seventh in NCAA Division II. The Lady Bisons are ranked 25th in the nation and second regionally.

The Lady Bisons sent only four runners to the festival, with freshmen Sarah Reardon placing 120th out of more than 300 runners in the 5K race. A week before the Great American Cross Country Festival, the men’s cross country team ran its second straight victory at the Missouri Southern Stampede, while the Lady Bisons finished fourth. The team’s finish came just behind NCAA Division I schools Southwest Missouri State and Oral Roberts. Harding’s top woman was Tahila Dicks, placing fourth in the 6K race with a time of 22:17.5.

The season opener was at Ouachita Baptist in Arkadelphia. Both the men’s and women’s cross country teams coasted to victory at the Bob Greavette Invitational on the campus of Ouachita Baptist. Ritakallio won the women’s 5K race in 19:03. The team will be looking for another Gulf South Conference Championship in Memphis once again Oct. 27. Ritakallio promises that she will do better at the next race than at the last. “I know I can do at least a minute better,” she said.

Coach Phillips’ wife, Darla, said he has established a special bond with this year’s group of runners. Some of the runners have gone on a yearly mission to Honduras with Phillips and attend Bible studies in his home. “We’ve rented a big bus and it would be great if we could get some support from fans to come along with us,” he said.

Phillips said he is pleased with how his group is handling things this year and overcoming their injuries. “If I had one thing to say to the runners, it would be that I appreciate all their hard work,” he said.

Bison cross country runners take off in a tight pack from the starting line at a recent meet. The men’s team captured its second straight victory in Division II standings, while the women’s team finished seventh in NCAA Division II.

Come again?
Athletic retirement rears its ugly head

I envision thousands of cheering fans jumping to their feet as the prestigious Michael Jordan returns to the court for his second comeback. Yes, I know I’ve referred to M.J. before, but all this media buzz has me thinking. And not to bash the king of the spread-leg, flopping-tongue, mid-air slam dunk, but the future of them is performing CPR on their aged careers.

Players like Mark McGuire, Barry Bonds and Michael Jordan, the greats of their sport, are running out of time. They’ll be replaced by the not-so-great. Powerade drinking wisks kid players, who can call his home run shots only because his bat is equipped with laser targeting and GPS satellite uplink to track the ball’s trajectory.

Sports are becoming more and more aggressive. Records are being broken constantly and the idolized players of yesterday and today are the collectible Beanie Babies of tomorrow.

I remember when I used to love watching Cal Ripken Jr. or Nolan Ryan, who sadly aren’t retired. I have to give them a grateful bow since they did retire at the peak of their game and have no intention of coming back. (A hint someone might take into consideration ... JORDAN?)

Just think about this concept for a moment. By the time I graduate these guys will qualify for Social Security benefits. Solution? Let’s place all players 35 years of age and over in an athletic retirement home. There they can enjoy the benefits of aged sports competition, imagine ease with which a rickety old Mark McGuire could strike to first base (as long as his walker didn’t give out). Think about the joy shining in Michael Jordan’s wistful face as he hosts his deceptively frail body up to the rim for a dunk, then being gently lowered back to the ground by the crane that he’s being supported by.

I look upon the masters of the game with a fondness because I know they’re playing their hearts out as long as they have the desire and strength (or until they fall and break a hip). I cheer with excitement as Barry Bonds strides to the plate, and as M.J. strikes another basket.

Then I think about the future, a future where these players no longer exist, and I winces, because I know they will be replaced by psychotic dominating robots who will one day turn on us and take over the world with their baseball bats and basketballs.

Bisons in Brief

Football (1-4, 1-3 GSC)
Lost Saturday against UCA, 51-27.
Next game: Noon Saturday at Valdosta State in Georgia.

Volleyball (18-10, 4-1 GSC)
Defeated Arkansas Tech Thursday, 3-2, ending Tech’s 27 match winning streak.
Won 3-0 vs. Washburn Friday in the Rockhurst Invitational, but lost to Rockhurst, Central Missouri and Emporia State. Leslie Hollingsworth passed the 1,000 kills mark, making her the only the third player in Harding history to do so.
Next match: Oct. 16 vs. Southern Arkansas University at 7 p.m.

Men’s Soccer (6-6, 1-1 GSC)
Won Tuesday vs. Ouachita Baptist, 3-1.
Jeff Ireland scored two goals off penalty kicks. He now has 13 goals on the season.
Next match: Friday, Oct. 12 at Alabama-Huntsville at 3:30 p.m.
Next home match: Oct. 19 vs. Montevallo at 7:30 p.m.

Women’s Soccer (2-6, 1-2 GSC)
Won Tuesday vs. Ouachita Baptist, 2-1.
Lori Roof scored both goals and goalie Jodi Besenyei captured five saves during the game against OBU.
Next match: Friday, Oct. 12 at Alabama-Huntsville at 3:30 p.m.
Next home match: Oct. 19 vs. Montevallo at 7:30 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country
The Lady Bisons won the Rhodes College Invitational Saturday, marking their second meet win of the year.
Hanna Ritakallio placed second and Janet Kogo placed third.
Next meet: Saturday at the Chile Pepper Invitational in Fayetteville.