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Day of Outreach set for Wednesday

Hurdling students are scheduled to conduct more than 70 service projects in Searcy and White County Wednesday as part of the university-sponsored Day of Outreach. The first-time event, sponsored by the Student Association, consists of student-led projects to work with local churches, social services groups and area individuals that need a band with various projects. Some of the projects include working with the Department of Human Services, planting trees along the Searcy bike trail, helping with art and science projects at area schools and clearing local parks. Students will also be sent to individual homes to serve.

"There are real needs out there for people to get involved," senior Kim Hobbs, project coordinator, said. "Some of the projects are more general, [like] working with groups of people or just needs in the city. But there are also personal needs that will be filling. For some of them, we'll be baby-sitting, helping clean house, doing lawn care, clearing their gutters... a variety of things." A number of students plan to visit elderly church members as a part of the service team co-led by senior Buffy Bartlett. "I think people really need visitors and they need someone to sit and talk with them," Bartlett said. "They're just really lonely. Also, they're not able to get around as well as they used to. We'll be... helping where they need us to." Senior Khris Downey, Jen Shaver and Courtney Gaylor are leading a group that is preparing care packages for Searcy's military personnel who were recently deployed to Egypt.

I don't just want it to be a bunch of good deeds that we send to the soldiers, but an encouragement," Shaver said. Another group plans to start their service earlier. Senior Jordan Coker is leading the food drive collection, beginning Saturday. The group needs help with handing out bags in 11 Searcy neighborhoods. The bags, donated by local businesses, will be distributed door-to-door for pickup on Wednesday. The bags of nonperishable goods are for the Arkansas Food Bank in Little Rock. The holiday season left their cupboards nearly bare and donations are vital, Coker adds that anyone willing to help distribute bags and flaps for the collection meet in the student center Saturday at noon.

The Day of Outreach is the product of months of planning and is the brainchild of SA President Steve Cloer. He said he got the idea for the day of service after working on a similar project at Harding Academy his senior year. The project was a success and he said he wanted to try it with a larger student body.

"The idea is trying to get students out and that... Jesus [will] be glorified and exalted in the whole town of Searcy," Cloer said. "That's the dream we're trying to capture in doing this." Many people have assisted with the project. A committee of student coordinators and faculty members started meeting in November to discuss possibilities for service. Once the search began, ideas quickly flowed in, organizers said. According to Hobbs, the number of projects slated for Wednesday is just enough for Harding's varied student body.

Despite the positive response to the Day of Outreach, officials indicated it was difficult keeping the campus informed.

"We had communication challenges as far as telling people, informing faculty, keeping everyone up to date," Hobbs said. "But we have overcome them and we are on schedule." Hobbs said the SA wants the student body to enjoy its time of service to the community.

"We don't want there to be a written requirement for students that are trying to force anyone to serve," she said. "We want this to be your individual desire to serve... to give you the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

Chapters will meet on an abbreviated schedule, with groups gathering around 12:30 p.m. at their assigned places. At that time, students who do not have a group or a 945 class are advised to meet in the Benson Auditorium to be assigned to a project.
Rings around the column
The Cookie Jar
Ryan Cook
Editor

I don’t recall my first Olympics. This is probably because the 1980 summer games in Moscow were just months after my birth and the United States boycotted the event. But I clearly remember every Olympics since the 1988 games in Seoul, South Korea, and Canada, California. For a few weeks every two years now that the summer and winter games are in different cities, people come together and celebrate unity and the best the human spirit has to offer. The games continually offer us some of the most encouraging, heartwarming moments in all of sport.

On Monday, the fourth day of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, I observed a moment that will forever stand in my mind. While I concede that the winter games are not nearly as exciting as the summer games, you still can’t beat a curling match or luge run for a thrilling viewing experience.

Medal ceremonies have always been among my favorite moments, but none have been nearly as impressive as the ceremony for the men’s snowboarding halfpipe event.

Three Americans — Ross Powers, Danny Kass and Jarret Thomas — combined to sweep the event’s medals. So the first image I saw as I turned on that evening’s late-night coverage was a replay of “The Star-Spangled Banner” being played while three emotional Americans watched a trio of American flags being raised in downtown Salt Lake City.

It was the first U.S. medal sweep in a Winter Olympics in more than 40 years. And it was a memory typical of the games.

I missed last Friday’s opening ceremonies covering a high school basketball game in Pangburn, (thinks, Rick), so I only know what I heard afterwards. But, according to many observers, the opening of the games was very moving, too.

The classic moment from the winter games has to be 1980’s “Miracle on Ice” — when an amateur crew of Americans upset the mighty Soviets for the gold medal in men’s hockey. No other comes to mind. While I concede that the winter games are not nearly as exciting as the summer games, you still can’t beat a curling match or luge run for a thrilling viewing experience.

In case you’re wondering, only 910 days remain until the 2004 summer games open in Athens.

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The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited and funded 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 the Christian ideals for which Harding University exists.

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Former Bisons playing professionally in Europe

Michelle Scobba  
Staff writer

Two former Harding students, Armand Etame and Chris Hardaway, are playing professional basketball in Denmark.

The students are members of the Holbaek Falkene, a team of about 14 players based in a city about the size of Searcy. The Falkene, along with 10 or 12 other teams around Denmark, is part of a league with competition comparable to NCAA Division II. The players travel throughout Denmark, competing in an average of two games a week during the season.

As a part of their contract, they are paid and provided furnished apartments. They are also involved in endorsements with local clothing and sports stores.

Etame, a Bison from 1999 to 2001, and Hardaway, a Bison from 1998 to 2000, won this opportunity through previous university connections with the Holbaek club. Jeff Morgan, men’s basketball coach, has traveled to Denmark for the past few summers to conduct basketball camps.

“Traveling is so important to me,” Etame said. “You can only learn so much from books and school. The experience is worth so much more.”

Morgan agrees that the experience is valuable. “It’s a great opportunity for traveling and getting to see another part of the world.”

Jeff Morgan, men’s basketball coach

Marion’s performance, they decided to add two more former Harding players to their roster.

While the contracts are for two years, renewal is possible. “My contract is good because it gives me flexibility and the option of going elsewhere if the opportunity presents itself,” Etame said.

The players have enjoyed their first season of international experience and travel. “Traveling is so important to me,” Etame said. “You can only learn so much from books and school. The experience is worth so much more.”

Morgan agrees that the experience is valuable. “It’s a great opportunity for traveling and getting to see another part of the world,” he said. “It can also be used as a stepping stone to higher competition, better pay and positions in a more competitive league.”

Budget woes worry Arkansas students

Continued from page 1

The elimination of the Academic Challenge Scholarship program for current high school seniors is also a concern to those familiar with Harding’s situation.

“The Academic Challenge Scholarship is need-based, so many students depend on it to provide for their education,” Williams said.

Students already awarded the scholarships will receive their full award for this school year, but renewals for succeeding years will be contingent on the availability of state funds.

“We are going to do whatever it takes to help the students who would have received the scholarships,” Carr said. “We are committed to finding aid for students with financial need.”

Officials are hopeful the Academic Challenge Scholarship program will be renewed when the state legislature convenes in January 2003.

Alternative methods of funding are being evaluated by the ADHE to see if the scholarships can be continued independently.

“We are now seeking private sources of funds so that we can continue offering the scholarships in the future,” Goff said. “We have currently submitted a proposal to the Reynolds Foundation for help.”

If the program is not renewed, changes could be seen in enrollment figures at universities around the state.

“If these scholarships are completely removed, then there could be an increase in the college dropout and attendance rates in years to come,” Goff said.

Until then, students are encouraged to do their best to help out the situation.

“Look at all the available options for college funding,” Goff said. “Do whatever it takes to get an education, even if it means acquiring some debt.”

Harding officials are also encouraging Arkansas students to get involved.

“Be in contact with your state representatives and state senators,” Williams said. “Let them know how important it was that this funding came and make sure they know that you would like to see it extended.”

Getting Married?

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Let it snow!

Several inches of snow fell across Arkansas last week, closing schools and businesses around the state. Harding's classes went on as scheduled, a fact that was greeted with some grumbling the morning of Feb. 6. But until the snow melted the next day, students, faculty and staff made the most of the weather by sculpting, sliding and having numerous snowball fights on the front lawn and in Harding Park. Bison photographer Curtis Seright captured the fun on film.

Staff writer

Above: Groups of chilly students make their way to classes amidst a few inches of snow that blanketed most of Arkansas last week. Although classes were not cancelled, the student body found enough time to play in the snow before it quickly melted the next day.

Top right: Icicles hang from the university arch near the Stevens Art Building after Searcy recently received its first snow of the season.

Bottom right: Freshman Tim Polk enjoys the recent snow by launching a snowball at a group of friends.

Harding's location not convenient for skiers, surfers

Ryan Saul
Staff writer

For most of the student body, Harding's campus is conveniently located, but for those students who embrace surf and snow sports, Searcy is in anything but a favorable spot.

More than a few students enjoy skiing and snowboarding through the winter months, but the distance to the nearest slopes proves to be an obstacle. In some cases, chance encounters with these unconventional sports on youth group trips have transformed one-time novices into skilled skiers, surfers and snowboarders.

Junior Shelly Kung learned to ski at the age of 11 when her family lived in Austria. For the past six years she has lived in Denver, Colo., with her family. Living so close to some of the country's most challenging slopes allowed Kung to develop a love for skiing.

"I really miss it when I am here at school," Kung said. "It's tough because there isn't a place close to Harding where you can ski, so I really just try to ski as much as I can when I am at home." Kung occasionally receives a magazine or picture in the mail from her father who sympathizes with the difficult locale.

A handful of Harding students have adopted the sport of surfing into their lifestyle, and for these students the setting in Searcy seems to be no better. Many of the surfers at Harding appear to be of the same opinion that being far from a coast can dampen morale.

"I think if you talk to any surfer here at Harding, they will tell you the same thing—that being away from the ocean for so long can sometimes bring you down," senior Aaron Etheridge said. He has been skiing and surfing since his preteen years. "Surfing isn't just about riding waves, it's about being out there in the water and experiencing nature firsthand."

Junior Nick Evans agreed with Etheridge in his thoughts about the sport and Harding's distance from popular forums that accommodate skiers and surfers. "Surfing is as much about the soul as it is about the rush," said Evans, a native of Ocean City, Md. "Surfing produces a feeling that is hard to replicate in a town so far from the coast."

Many of the students who take part in surf and snow sports only get the chance to do so while on summer or holiday breaks. However, these same students do find creative alternatives to snowboarding or surfing.

Kung said he plans to go water skiing on Greers Ferry Lake at Heber Springs as soon as the weather permits. Evans and a few of his friends have taken it upon themselves to seek out downhill roads in the area. At their own risk, these surf-starved students take turns riding down the roads on what they call "modified and used to serve as cafeteria trays to bent ironing boards." The motions are similar and the feeling of speed is thrilling," Evans said.

Many students took advantage of the recent snowfall to taste downhill action on campus. A number of different objects were modified and used to serve as sleds and snowboards for the small hill next to the Benson Auditorium. Objects ranging from cafeteria trays to bent ironing boards were used as students enjoyed the feeling of riding on snow once again.

Despite the absence of snow and surf, these students appear willing to trade in skis and surfboards to attend Harding and to take advantage of its Christian environment.

"While I miss all the great skiing, I do appreciate the experiences I am getting here at school," Kung said.
Professor's wife seriously hurt in icy auto accident

Sandy Butterfield showing improvement, faces long recovery

Traci Wheeler  
Staff writer

The wife of a Harding professor remains in a Little Rock hospital after being seriously injured in a car accident during a recent winter storm.

Sandy Butterfield, wife of Dr. Lou Butterfield, professor of communication, was listed in critical condition after being thrown from the sport-utility vehicle in which she and four others were traveling Feb. 7.

A teacher at Bradford Elementary School, Sandy Butterfield was carpooling with fellow teacher Dawn Slough, Carol Burchfield and Heather Davis when the vehicle hit a patch of ice and skidded. As it approached the Bald Knob exit overpass off Highway 67, when it hit another patch of ice, it careened 480 feet, ejecting both Butterfield and Slough. Burchfield and Davis escaped minor injuries.

Slough was taken to Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff but was not seriously injured. Sandy Butterfield, however, was airlifted 250 miles to the Bluff for treatment. Sandy Butterfield was treated for multiple injuries including head trauma and spinal cord injury. She is expected to recover.

James said the initial idea came from the Website designed for the center's Director of Math and Science Education. Kristin Altman, a Harding student and Slough's daughter, is a math and science education major.

Lifestyle

“Mrs. Butterfield is hospitable and enjoys talking to people that meet in her home,” junior Sandra Kirk said. “I don’t see students to be afraid to call me,” she said. “We’ll be honest if we can’t talk.”

Central for Math and Science assists teacher development

Donda Burricht  
Staff writer

Charged with fusing the elements of both math and science in an effort to endeavor area public schools and businesses to create new services and resources, Harding's Center for Math and Science Education was designed to improve central Arkansas's educational infrastructure.

The brainchild of Dr. Tony Finley, dean of the College of Education, the center was developed nearly 10 years ago.

“I worked with different schools on projects that saw the need to have resources here for pre-service teachers and for teachers,” said Finley, the center's director.

The center offers Arkansas Crusades classes for graduate credit and has other workshops available for professional development. The center is also an Access Center for the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse, which offers professional guidance with material that covers both mathematics and science education, and it provides in-service sessions during which teachers can communicate to share their experiences.

Teachers are offered online information about materials, and they can practice a selected set of those materials hands-on to see what resources are available and how they can be used in the classroom.

Field trips are offered each summer for about 40 teachers in the area. They have traveled to New England, Yellowstone National Park, the Great Lakes and, this year, to the Southeast.

The trip is a two-week intensive study session that counts as three credit hours for graduate study.

“Students study in content areas like geology, social science, mathematics and technology, and all of them do considerably well,” Finley said.

The center has a library with many resources available for students and teachers.

“I have been able to donate a lot of helpful materials and I have also been able to get many grants to help build up resources for teachers,” Finley said.

Now more than 5,000 books, videos and visual aids are readily available to be checked out.

“This center is a great resource that could be used by students,” said Jason McGlawn, assistant director.

McGlawn said he encourages everyone to stop by and look at what is being offered.

A list of available materials can be obtained from the center's office, located in room B of Sewell Hall or on their Web page at www.harding.edu/CMSE.
In Review
Heidi Walden
Staff writer

I n a time when movies are full of sex, violence and foul language, it is a refreshing change to see a movie that showcases sound morals. "A Walk to Remember," directed by Adam Shankman and based on the novel by South Carolina native Nicholas Sparks, shows the mix of cruelty and kindness that high school life can sometimes be.

"A Walk to Remember" follows the predictable, unoriginal story line of most typical boy-meets-girl-type movies. But tragedy strikes to break the two teenage soulmates apart, leaving one person alone in the end, reminiscing.

In the small town of Beaufont, N.C., Landon, played by Shane West, has one last chance to keep from being expelled from school — he must tutor kids on Saturdays and play the lead role in the spring play.

Through a strange turn of events, Landon steps into the life of Brianna, played by Mandy Moore. Jamie has a strong faith in God, being the preacher's daughter, and is a mystery to Landon.

The teenage couple slowly become the most unlikely pair in the entire high school, breaking ties with lifelong friends in the process. And, soon after, Landon begins to believe that he can do anything with Jamie by his side.

Roger Ebert gave "A Walk to Remember" three stars, but the critics for "Entertainment Weekly" and the "New York Times" agreed that this movie is predictable and tragic, only awarding it one star.

I enjoyed the movie for its entertainment value, but it has a very predictable plot. I did like that Landon changed his outlook on life and strove to be a better person because of Jamie. The tragic ending is sweet, but fated and overshadowed early in the movie. The new relationship was going too perfectly and the father was too protective of the movie to end happily ever after.

The morals shown across the screen were a surprise. I have never seen a movie that showcases Christianity through the eyes of a teenager character who openly discusses God. I was intrigued about how talk of God would flow with the movie and a little skeptical of how Hollywood might project religion.

Overall, the critics bashed "A Walk to Remember" for being predictable. I think that the audience will see what the critics saw, but also enjoy the goodness of the movie. I recommend this movie to Harding students, especially because of its good content and positive message.

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"Walk" is not very memorable.
Baseball season starts out strong

Cody Usher
Staff writer

The Bison baseball team entered this season with a fresh look. With 16 new players, the Bisons are counting on leadership from the eight returning upperclassmen. Following Tuesday’s doubleheader sweep of East Central, the Bisons are 5-1 and primed to prove themselves this weekend in Branson as they compete in the Snowball Classic and in conference play, which begins March 2.

Junior Gary Luna runs with a bang. Through the first four games, Sprenger batted a team-leading .727 and hit two home runs. One of the home runs was a 400-foot blast over the center field wall at Jerry Moore Field Feb. 5 against Freed-Hardeman.

Albritton takes over duties behind the plate full time after splitting the position with J.D. Noye the past three seasons. Albritton is off to a strong start, hitting .444, including a homer in the first game of the season at Williams Baptist Feb. 2. Albritton is also a perfect 3-for-3 in throwing out base runners attempting to steal.

First baseman James comes into the season as a career .311 hitter and is tied for 11th on Harding’s all-time home run list with nine. James is hitting .231 to begin the 2002 season.

Three underclassmen complete the Bison infield. Sophomore third baseman Morgan Trotter has started the season batting .467 and had hit safely in the first four games. Against Williams Baptist, Trotter went 3-for-6 with two home runs and four runs batted in. Sophomore Ben Neely and freshman second baseman Jake Sprenger, Gary Albritton and Ben James are 5-1 and primed to prove themselves in Branson as they compete in the Snowball Classic and in conference play, which begins March 2.

The Bisons are 5-1 and primed to prove themselves this weekend in Branson as they compete in the Snowball Classic and in conference play, which begins March 2.

Sophomore Gary Lasley takes a few swings during practice Wednesday. The Bisons, who are 5-1 in conference play, head to Branson Friday to participate in the Snowball Classic.

Track off with a bang as six qualify for Nationals

Cheryl Brand
Staff writer

Harding men’s and women’s track teams are expecting a strong season as runners attempt to qualify for the NCAA Division II Nationals for both indoor and outdoor seasons to be held in March and May, respectively.

Already this season the teams have competed at indoor meets in Kansas and Missouri and are scheduled to run today at the Louisiana State University Invitational in Baton Rouge, La.

At the Feb. 2 meet in Kansas, senior Hanna Ritasaklio, who earned All-American Honors in three different races last year, and junior Tyler Kenmore both met provisional qualifying times for the indoor National meet. On Feb. 8, all four Harding runners who competed at the 5,000-meter relays in Missouri also qualified for Nationals. The qualifying runners include senior Linus Chepkwony, sophomore Sarah Reardon and freshmen Janet Kogo and Jacob Rotich.

During the outdoor season, others are expected to qualify, including sophomore Ryan Bond for hurdles and senior David Scharff for steeplechase.

Coach Brian Phillips said there are good possibilities for both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

Both the men and women are optimistic in achieving qualifying times for Nationals.

“The only thing that will keep us from qualifying for Nationals is ourselves,” Bond said. “We have the ability — it’s just a matter of pushing ourselves hard in practice, being mentally prepared and putting together smart races. If we do all those things, we should have no trouble qualifying.”

Both on- and off-season, the teams have prepared for competition in different ways.

“We’ve all worked really hard in off-season, so now were really excited to start competing,” Kenmoreer said. “In our first meet, many of us ran personal records and I ran for a National qualifying time. I expect Ryan Bond and Gary Luna to qualify also. I hope that we can all go to Nationals.”

While pushing themselves, teammates have also been cheering for each other.

“I want everyone to run well and I want to see Janet Kogo qualify for Nationals,” Reardon said.

“I hope to run well and qualify for Nationals and I also hope that team will do well,” Kogo said.

Phillips echoes the hopes and expectations of the teammates.

“I want as many people to qualify for Nationals as possible,” Phillips said. “My hope is that we just do the best we can.”

The Harding Invitational is set for April 9.

Men’s Basketball (13-9, 5-7 GSC): The Bisons lost a crucial game to Southern Arkansas University at home last Thursday, 92-78. Results were unavailable for Thursday’s game against Christian Brothers in Memphis. The Bisons must win the remainder of their games for a good chance to make the conference tournament. Junior guard Carl Vault broke his wrist this week during practice and will miss the remainder of the season games. The Bisons face Rhodes College this Saturday at 6 p.m.

Women’s Basketball (10-12, 4-8 GSC): The Lady Bisons snapped a five-game losing streak with an 85-74 win over Southern Arkansas last Thursday. Senior Mindy Napier and Kendra Bell and junior Heather Lawrence each scored more than 20 points. The Lady Bisons play Delta State at home Saturday at 4 p.m.

Baseball (5-1): The Bisons were in Fort Smith to play a doubleheader against East Central on Tuesday, winning 4-2 and 4-3. The Bisons head to Branson Friday to participate in the Snowball Classic, hosted by College of the Ozarks.

Tennis (Men 2-1; Women 4-1): Both the men and the women earned victories Feb. 5 against Hendrix College in Conway. The men face Rhodes College and Southwestern Oklahoma Saturday in Conway. Both teams were forced to cancel their matches last week due to weather.
Bisons fight for tournament berth

Jeremy Beauchamp
Sports editor

As Harding nears the end of the basketball season, the Bisons find themselves in a must-win situation.

"If we can win our last four games, we would definitely be in the conference tournament," coach Jeff Morgan said before Thursday's game against Christian Brothers. "If we can win three out of four we would have a pretty good chance." Things looked grim for the Bisons following a tough home loss to Southern Arkansas University Feb. 7. The Bisons played a close game until the second half, when the team made just 2-of-21 shots to open the first 10 minutes of the second half. At one point, the Bisons were down by 22 points but managed to decrease the deficit to 14 as the final score was 92-78.

The Bisons hope to shake off the humbling loss and rebound against Christian Brothers in Memphis Thursday.

The Bisons need the "W" to gain the momentum needed to come back to the Rhodes Saturday to face a tough Delta State team. Morgan was optimistic about the team's focus.

"We've had really good practices," Morgan said. "We've gotten to work on more of the fundamentals.

Still, the Bisons face a daunting task. Making the team's trek even more difficult is the recent loss of junior guard Carl Vault, who broke his wrist Tuesday during practice.

Morgan has tried to stress following the game plan for Saturday's game.

"Every team is a little bit different," Morgan said. "If we get a little better defensively and pull down a few more rebounds, we should do just fine."

February sports go to the dogs

Jeremy Beauchamp

For every sports fan fanatic out there, the month of February is bitter-sweet. Sunday afternoons are a drag after football season; it is too early to re-visit that baseball glove with the season still a couple of months away; and it is too cold to do anything. On the other hand, college basketball is in full swing; the NBA is as exciting as ever; and the Winter Olympics are underway. There is, however, one event that took place earlier this week that overshadowed all of these sporting events that take place during the month: The Westminster Dog Show.

The Westminster is the Super Bowl of all dog shows. Dog breeders from all over the world know the sun rise and set on Madison Square Garden in February. The hardcourt that hosts the Knicks is removed and replaced by a lovely pale yellow. Once a year, the Garden's floor is soaked not with sweat and blood, but with doggy... well, you know. Really though, wouldn't you rather watch those dogs strut around than the hapless Knicks play anyway? Well, a lot of other people would.

The Westminster Kennel Club hosted its 126th Dog Show last Monday and Tuesday. Despite being older than organized baseball, few people really know what the event is all about. Some would even hesitate to call it a sport. The nerve of some people. I was once one of these ignorant doubters. However, once I saw how much goes into training and grooming these dogs, I changed my tune.

More than 130 breeds were represented at this year's show. The dogs compete in their specific categories (I use the term compete loosely; all they do is trot around), which include sporting, hounds, working, terriers, toy, non-sporting and herding. The average trainer is old, rich and white and the average dog is fed better than I. However, once a dog is entered in his category and then brought out to be judged with the other pooches in his category. However, this is not so simple as it looks to categorize these animals. For instance, the terrier category is not so broad as to include any kind of terrier in one category; there are 27 sub-categories in the terrier category, including separations made for color and hair texture.

When being judged, the dogs are led by their trainers, one at a time, to stand in front of the judge. The breeder stoicly holds his pooch, while the judge checks out every little detail of the dog. Then the breeder walks his dog around, while the judge checks the animal's gait. It is a very meticulous process, and I'm sure a humbling experience for the losing dog. Anyway, winners always respond to their victory with the same passion a soccer player displays after scoring a goal (except the breeder doesn't take his shirt off and run around screaming), really all he does is raise his nose a little higher in the air.

While surely a thrill, the breeder's ultimate goal is to win "Best in Show," Judges award best in show to the dog that is the closest match to the official standard for its breed. They check things like general appearance, size, proportion, substance, head, neck, forequarters, hocks, coat, color, gait and temperament. Statistically, the winner is from the terrier group. The breed that has won the most times is the Wire Fox Terrier, with a grand total of 33. This year's winner: a miniature poodle named Spice Girl.

The Westminster Dog Show is an interesting event. It is not very reflective of everyday life, however. Where do the breeders get these names? This year's winners include tags like Hill Full Circle, Shrewsbury's Grace, I Told You So and Elegance of Rommer. Run. Where are the good, old-fashioned names like Max and Buddy? What do these people call their dogs for short? The most familiar name I saw (besides Spice Girl) was Sammy Sosa. I'm telling you, it's worth the ticket just to hear the dog names. Although it may seem a little ridiculous and look like another rip-off from British culture, the Westminster Dog Show does give the U.S. a little culture and flair. It also gives bored sports fans something to watch in February.