

1-24-2003

The Bison, January 24, 2003

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison>

Recommended Citation

The Bison, January 24, 2003. (2003). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison/1633>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Bison by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.



HARDING
UNIVERSITY



Dr. Terry Edwards is preparing for a change in scenery. Page 4

The Bison

H A R D I N G U N I V E R S I T Y

The Bisons are pumped for a run at a second consecutive tourney bid. Page 8



Vol. 78, No. 10

JANUARY 24, 2003

www.harding.edu/thebison

Teenager confesses to starting cafeteria blaze

Local 16-year-old with no ties to university admits responsibility for costly fire; Renovations scheduled to be completed April 1



CURTIS SERIGHT / The Bison

Crews continue to work on the fire-ravaged upstairs section of the cafeteria. Police arrested a 16-year-old male last month who confessed to starting the blaze in the northwest corner of the building Nov. 20. Plans for renovation of the building have already been completed and detail several new additions to the banquet halls and catering areas.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Searcy police arrested a 16-year-old male in connection with the Nov. 20 fire that destroyed much of the second floor of the American Heritage building and caused almost \$900,000 in damage.

The teen, whom police arrested Dec. 14 for charges unrelated to the fire, confessed to setting the blaze on campus and pled guilty in a court hearing Dec. 20.

According to a statement President David Burks issued to the faculty and staff Dec. 20, the juvenile will be in the custody of the Division of Youth Services until he is 18. Burks also said there was no connection between the juvenile and Harding University or Aramark.

"We were shocked to discover it was arson," David Crouch, director of public relations, said. "We're saddened that anyone would do such a thing on our campus. Fortunately, there were no injuries."

Sources say the teenager walked into the building after checking several locked doors. He then made his way up to the northwest corner of the second floor and started the fire in the storage room, which contained many flammable objects.

"I am relieved that they determined how the fire got started," Terrie Smith, Aramark catering director, said. "It makes you question whether you did everything you could to make it safe. After talking to my staff, I had no reason to question their account of

what they were doing that day. I am just glad he [the juvenile] confessed to it. It's sad to think that a child could do this. I hope that he can get some help."

Since the fire, clean-up crews have worked almost every day preparing the second story of the building, which served as banquet facilities, for renovation. Burks said the reconstructed second floor, which is scheduled to open April 1, will include the following additions:

- An elevator will be added to the Heritage building, allowing access from the hotel lobby.

- The east hall along the Founder's Room will be widened by three feet for better mobility.

- The bakery facility will be moved downstairs.

- Technology updates will include built-in screen projectors and electronic wall dividers. The rooms will be better equipped for multimedia use.

- Cabinets will be added to the banquet rooms and storage areas will be moved.

- Chandeliers and drapes will be added to enhance the rooms' design.

Aramark is readily anticipating the reopening. Steve Ritter, Aramark's director of food ser-

vice, said that business has been markedly slow.

"Numbers are down, but it's hard to quantify because we can't account for those who didn't pick up the phone."

Ritter was referring to customers who assumed that the fire had halted all of catering's ability to do business. Smith says the assumption has caused business to decrease, even though the fire has not affected their ability to handle large groups.

Although many of the memorabilia and banners of the Optimist, Civitan, Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs were lost in the blaze, each group still plan to use catering's services and are

"We were shocked to discover it was arson. We're saddened that anyone would do such a thing on our campus. Fortunately, there were no injuries."

David Crouch, director of public relations

meeting in other rooms until the renovation is completed.

Other decorations that were in the banquet rooms during the fire escaped ruin. Important artifacts spared in the blaze include the original Harding University flag and a portrait of James A. Harding.

"The items that have been spared will be restored after cleaning," Smith said. "Most of the items that were lost were in the northwest corner of the building and sustained fire damage. The items that have been salvaged only suffered smoke and water damage."

Students called to active duty as nation prepares for conflict

ELIZABETH STEPHENS
Staff writer

Freshman Robert Groves and senior Eden Taylor were called from the classroom to active duty in support of operation "Enduring Freedom" Jan. 11. Groves and Taylor are two of the many American reserve officers this month that have been called from their civilian lives to begin mobilization for military actions that might occur in the Middle East.

Groves and Taylor are both part of a Little Rock reserve unit that specializes in civil affairs. Due to the nature of their unit's responsibilities, Groves and Taylor have been given separate deployment orders.

Groves, who is from Jackson, Tenn., is a member of Omega Sigma social club.

"He was nervous about leaving for duty, but his willingness to serve his country was inspiring to both me and others surrounding him," freshman Kendall Myers said.

Groves left Little Rock January 17 to begin training at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and was unable to comment about his call to active duty. However, military personnel confirmed that Groves is making preparations to leave the States.

"Robert's unit is now preparing for deployment overseas by readying equipment and going through the procedures to legally change the newly deployed units from civil-

ian status to active duty status," Ben Able, information officer for Fort Bragg, said. "From Robert's command, over a thousand reserves have been called to active duty, but the exact number cannot be released. Robert will be stationed in Kuwait but the exact date of his departure is unknown."

Taylor is a healthcare management major from Manassas, Va. She is a member of Kappa Gamma Epsilon social club.

"It was encouraging to see how calm Eden was concerning her duties," senior Mindy Haney said. "It was a true testament of faith to see the way she accepted God's plans for her life."

Taylor began a month of active duty Jan. 15 in Little Rock. Taylor's job at the military base is to prepare the unit for mobilization. At this point she has not been deployed and will

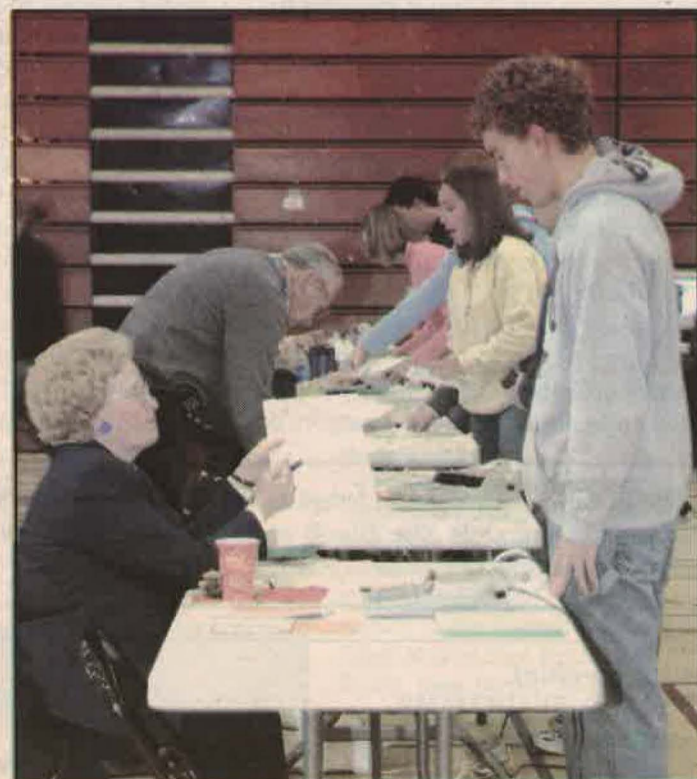
not know the extent of her active duty status until the middle of February.

"Since September 11, I have known that my unit was on heightened alert," Taylor said. "In many ways, I am relieved that I finally know what to expect, but it is frustrating for me to be unable to fully make a decision concerning school because

"Since September 11, I have known that my unit was on heightened alert."

Eden Taylor, senior

A time to register



JEFF MONTGOMERY / Harding Public Relations

Freshman Mark Fitzgerald discusses his financial aid situation with Martha Hodges, administrative assistant, during spring registration in the Ganus Athletic Center Jan. 7. Although officials have not confirmed plans, Todd Sheldon, assistant vice president for finance, said the registration process will be much different next fall as a result of the implementation of Banner, the university's new software system.

See Students, page 3

Searching the self uncovers beauty

After a scolding from a close friend (actually I have been given the same scolding by a number of friends), I asked myself one question. Do I know how beautiful I am?

Those of you out there who don't know me are probably thinking that I'm full of nothing but conceit. Those of you who do know me, however, know that this is a question I have rarely asked myself.

After hearing that I need to think more of myself for others to think more of me, I decided that I desperately needed to see in me what others see in me.

Let me just give it to you straight. After doing some research on myself, I have decided that I am beautiful.

I have my flaws. Actually, I have many flaws. I'm overdramatic. And

with that, I tend to exaggerate some things. Being a female, I will cry at any given moment. I stress out. I have a tough time dealing with change. I tend to think I'm right in most circumstances.

Fortunately, God has still given me the right to be beautiful.

I have some great gifts and characteristics that have molded me into a beautiful person. I love my friends and family with all of my heart. I realize how

blessed I am. I know that a smile can and will get me a long way. I'm good with words. I'm a hard-worker. I have great natural-curly hair that a lot of girls envy. I love God.

What's the point? It's not that Renee Lewis is beautiful — it's that everyone is beautiful. The guy that lives in Armstrong 312 is beautiful (I don't

God has made everyone in His image. He has given all of us the opportunity to let our beauty shine.

Renee Lewis

Guest Room



know who you are. I picked that room at random). The professor who is driving you crazy is beautiful. The person who took the last of the French toast sticks this morning in the cafeteria is beautiful. The little brother who pestered you for three weeks straight during break is beautiful.

God has made everyone in His image. He has given all of us the opportunity to let our beauty shine.

Sit down and think about your beauty. Do you know that it is there? Do you realize that the people around you know it's there? Do you realize that whether you like it or not, you are beau-

tiful and you can't change that?

Accept it. Realize it. No matter what you think you see in the mirror, there is beauty there. If you look and see something you don't like, please look again. You are beautiful, I promise you. You are a child of God. Don't insult our Creator by saying that you are not beautiful.

Anyway, back to me. I am beautiful. I am a child of God. Created in His image, I celebrate my beauty.

So to my friends who scolded me, thank you. I needed some tough love. I needed to hear that I was full of it. I needed to hear that if I view myself for less than what I am, people will see that.

Oh by the way, welcome back to Harding. I hope you also realize the opportunity that is in front of you at this place. That's another column.

Let me leave you with one question: Do you know how beautiful you are?

Mixed emotions: Rumors of war leave most citizens with more questions than answers as nation tries to prepare

Are you willing to die for oil? Protesters took to the streets en masse Jan. 18 to ask such questions of the American people. Thousands marched in San Francisco and thousands more swarmed our nation's capitol to cry foul in light of the actions of the Pentagon, which stepped up its preparations for war in the Persian Gulf.

Hollywood was present, blaming the right-wing fanatics for all the world's problems. Protest singers of antiquity made their presence felt, as did rhyming reverends and thousands of angst-ridden students eager to share their academia. Everyone else shook their heads in complaint and disbelief, or cheered them on from their couch before getting on to the "important" things of the day.

I wonder what I want. Personally, my fellow humans overseas, whether Iraqi or American, are more important than an infinite number of barrels of oil. But perhaps oil is not the only impetus for war.

President Bush says he is interested in the security of this country and believes that if Saddam is allowed to continue to rule he will use weapons of mass destruction against our country, or at least threaten us with them. Do I want weapons of such devastation in the hands of an extremist tyrant? Of course I don't. However, I am not sure I am willing to go off to another country and start killing their people.

Recently, there have been rumors of



Jeremy D. Beauchamp

The View From Here

and suggestions for another draft. This is frightening for someone trying to figure out the validity of this war. Four years ago, I was prepared for this. I thought there was nothing more romantic than the idea of dying for my country on a foreign battlefield.

The first week after I turned 18, I signed up for my selective service card. I studied flag etiquette in my free time and learned how to properly fold it. I was blissfully ignorant on our foreign policy. I was proud of this country. I still am, but with reservations. I can't help but feel like my government is lying to me.

I don't want to be drafted. I don't want to use a firearm. I don't want to be the reason some child's father doesn't come home. I don't want to live my life threatened and I don't want Saddam to "win." I love my country and I will support it, but I don't really want to fight in a foreign land for oil.

There is nowhere else I would rather live, but I can't help feeling like everyone my age is turning against the United States. It seems like they all would rather fight for the freedom of Tibet or the destruction of the World

Bank than vote in an election. It's all a frightening pill to swallow.

I don't want to have to care what is happening in this world. I want to go to class and not be challenged to think about this country and her problems. I want to ignore it all and get on with the would-be important things. But it's screaming in our faces.

How do I feel about our interests in the Middle East? I don't want to go to war. I don't want to kill anyone and I don't want anyone to be killed. I want all arms destroyed and I want every country to be out of the red and financially stable.

I am tired of being hated for what I've been blessed with and I am tired of feel-

ing guilty about it. I want worldwide freedom of religion and I am tired of seeing missionaries murdered. I want racial equality and I want women in foreign countries to stop suffering.

I want abortions to end and I want to see every disease cured. I want more than peace, I want a moral consciousness to pervade this precious globe.

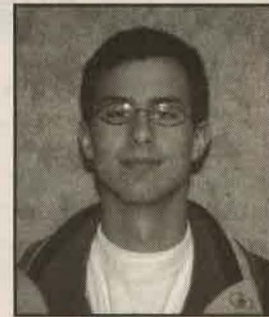
Is fighting going to accomplish these things? I don't know. Prayer seems more effective. God has put the governments in place even though we may not know exactly why. He knows what He is doing, which is far more than I can say for me.

I just hope tens of thousands don't die just because of oil.

Speak out. What are your plans for the Super Bowl?



"I don't have any definite plans, but I will probably watch the game with friends."
—Robyn Hopkins, junior



"My friends and I will be rooting for Oakland ... Chili and Coke will set the stage for the Raiders' sure victory."
—Mark Leonard, sophomore



"I have no idea who's even playing, so I am going to go to every Super Bowl gathering and eat."
—Ebony Postell, junior

The Bison welcomes signed letters to the editor. Please send letters or ideas for editorial content to The Bison at campus box 11192 or e-mail them to thebison@harding.edu.

Editor-in-chief
JEREMY D. BEAUCHAMP
Business Manager
SARAH TEO
Copy Editor
DeANN THOMAS

The
Bison

Sports Editor
RYAN COOK
Photographer
CURTIS SERIGHT
Adviser
JIM MILLER

The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The Bison recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University exists. 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, while 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: \$10 per year. Periodical postage (USPS 577660) paid at 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.

Bible teachers view ossuary in Toronto

CAIREY TAI
Staff writer

Until *Biblical Archaeology Review* announced the discovery of an inscribed ossuary, or bone box, in November 2002, there was no archaeological record of Jesus.

In December, the much publicized ossuary bearing the inscription "James, the son of Joseph, brother of Jesus," was exhibited in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto where five Harding professors viewed it.

The exhibition, sponsored by BAR, was held in conjunction with the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting.

Dr. Tom Alexander, dean of the College of Bible and Religion, and Drs. Edward Myers, Paul Pollard, Duane Warden and Dale Manor, professors of Bible, viewed the ossuary at the meeting.

According to BAR, the ossuary is also the earliest archaeological attestation of the three New Testament figures.

Given the importance many place on the ossuary, questions about its authenticity have arisen. The first major concern is that the appearance of the last part of the inscription, "brother of Jesus," does not match the rest of the inscription.

Secondly, there is no clear record of where the ossuary was excavated. The owner of the box said he bought it in the early-to-mid 1970s on the antiquities market.

While scholars believe it came from the tombs outside of Jerusalem, there is no documentation of the excavation.

Despite these arguments, many believe the ossuary is authentic. "There are other factors that we

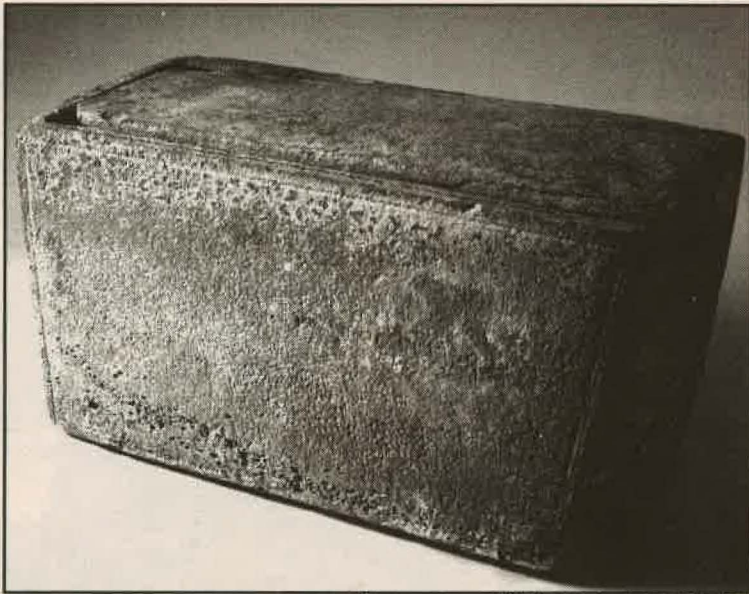


Photo courtesy of Biblical Archeological Studies

The supposed ossuary of James, brother of Jesus, sits on display in the Royal Ontario Museum. Professors from the College of Bible and Religion were able to view the bone box up close in November as attendees at the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting.

need to consider in this dispute," said Manor, who teaches archaeology. "I think a lot can be explained by considering the object more closely."

First of all, Manor said the Israel Geologic Survey examined the ossuary and determined it to be authentic.

He said the survey is an unbiased source that would not have any reason to either support or deny the authenticity.

Manor also said the existence of the patina, a type of scum that builds up on artifacts, is a sign that the box is not a fake.

"The patina gives the box the most credibility of its antiquity," Manor said. "A person could go through the trouble of reproducing certain elements of the patina, but to try and reproduce all of it would take a lot of expertise and would be impossible to do."

The differences in handwriting could be explained by the fact that the ossuary is made of stone, according to Manor.

Because stone does not have a consistent density, the writing on different parts of the stone could appear different. The part of the in-

scription in question could be in the harder part of the stone, which would make it difficult to work and give the handwriting a different appearance.

Some people wonder why the authenticity of the stone matters at all. After all, the inscription doesn't reveal anything that isn't already printed in the Bible.

To Alexander, it is the addition of evidence to the archaeological record that's significant.

"We already know from the literary evidence; the New Testament, the writings of Josephus, that these people existed," Alexander said. "Now we have archaeological proof as well."

The discovery also holds a more personal significance to some people. Manor said for him the ossuary draws a connection between the present and the past.

He said it was exciting to be able to look at the ossuary and see that the Biblical people really existed.

"It's not something I needed for my faith purpose," Manor said. "It's more like a handshake across time."

Students leave concerned friends

Continued from page 1

my orders will not be decided until February."

Groves and Taylor have both been forced to place their academic careers on hold for this semester.

"In situations such as these the university tries its best to work with the students so that their willingness to serve our country is not a hindrance to pursuing their future careers," Larry Long, associate vice president for academic affairs, said.

The Army Reserves is the only branch of the military that has 95% of its enlisted men and women involved in civil affairs. Civil affairs is one of the most deployed military occupational specialties in the armed forces due to the spe-

cialized role they play in military occupations.

The civil affairs field manual states that their mission is to support the commander's relationship with civil authorities and civilian populace, promote mission legitimacy and enhance military effectiveness. This is accomplished by going into the target country first, with Special Forces units, to assess the needs of the civilian Red Cross and the Red Crescent to solve whatever problems they encounter.

This is the second consecutive year that students have been called to active duty. In the fall of 2001, students Jason Darden and Wayne Westerholm were sent to Israel on a peacekeeping mission following the terrorist action Sept. 11, 2001.

SA Movie: Tuck Everlasting
Saturday Night
8 p.m. - Benson
\$2 or free with the Pass

USA Drug
America's Low Price Drug Store!

★ Fast, Friendly Service ★ Prescription Drive-Thru Window
★ Low, Discount Prices ★ Acceptance of over 5,000 Prescription Plans

On Fridays, Receive
10% OFF All Goods! with Any Harding College I.D.
Does Not Include Prescriptions, Soft Drinks or Sale Items.

1540 East Race Avenue • Searcy, AR • (501) 268-5315
Refill Your Prescriptions on the Web! • www.usadrug.com

Bible-believing students...
Darwin says you're a fish!

Get the latest Creationist news! Call 1-800-844-9912 today

Points of Origins Ministry

HARDING UNIVERSITY

Keep up.

www.harding.edu/thebison

A special for the student-sized budget

2 "Spicy Strips" and a biscuit only \$1.99

add fries for **\$3.09**
OR make it a combo for **\$4.79**

POPEYES CHICKEN & BISCUITS

1805 Beebe Capps 368-8773

Searcy Dental Associates, P.A.
Tim C. Duke, D.D.S.

Valentine's Special

Professional Tooth Whitening only **\$125** (a \$250 value!)

Running through the month of February...

White County Surgery Center
710 Marion Street, Ste. 302
268-3666

Home away from homesick

Students returning from overseas programs discover difficult transition

CLAUDIA RAMIREZ
Staff writer

According to the International Programs office, almost 25 percent of students from each graduating class have participated in an overseas program. Many students who spent the fall semester studying abroad are finding it difficult to make the transition back to Searcy.

"Returning to Searcy this semester was a lot harder than I thought it would be," junior Craig Bettenhausen said. "Everything is entirely different here."

Bettenhausen, who spent last semester in Latin America, said one of the biggest differences about being back in Searcy is having more people around. The fall programs, Chile, Greece and Italy, had small groups of people so students basically saw the same people every day.

"Now I go to class and see people that I don't know in the classroom, while back in HUF I lived and had classes with the same people," junior Sarah West said. "I had become used to that."



Junior Nick Faris and senior Josh Harriman pose next to a sign in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor, Egypt in November. Faris and Harriman spent the fall semester studying in Greece with around 40 other Harding students.

Because of the smaller size of the groups, the atmosphere on an international campus was often less formal and structured, junior Andrew Cheffins said.

"Not being in an atmosphere like the one in Italy was a shock," Cheffins said. "The atmosphere was a lot more laid back, so classes seem a lot harder here."

Others said that while being back with the larger student body has not required much adjustment, they are experiencing a difficult time catching up with all the

changes that occurred while they were away.

"Since I have been back [from HULA], it hasn't really been hard to adjust to my old routine, just weird. It seems like I haven't been gone at all," junior Greg McKenzie said. "[Yet], so many things have changed and you feel like you have missed a lot and don't know what is going on anymore."

On the other hand, senior Katie Cornett said she didn't think she had missed much while she was away in Greece.

"I don't think I missed a beat in any of my relationships," she said. "I kept in touch with my friends the whole time I was gone, so I don't feel like I really missed much with relationships."

Despite the difficulties some are having, being involved in an international program was rewarding, junior Stacy Perry said.

"The experience itself made me feel I have grown to be a better person," she said. "Through the good and bad experiences in HUF, I am now striving to be a better Christian."

Myhan to replace Edwards at HUG

BETHANY THOMPSON
Staff writer

This summer, Dr. Jerry Myhan, associate professor of nursing, will replace Dr. Terry Edwards as the director of the Harding University in Greece program.

Myhan will take over at the end of the summer session and start the fall semester as the new HUG director.

Myhan and his wife, Dianne, will spend six to eight weeks, beginning in early June, learning the tricks of the trade from the Edwards.

Dianne Myhan's interest initially led Jerry Myhan to look into teaching at HUG.

"She has wanted to teach at one of the overseas programs for a long time," Jerry Myhan said. "When Dr. Jeff Hopper [dean of international programs] sent an e-mail to several staff members informing them of the upcoming position in Greece, Dianne said, 'Can we do it?' I said, 'Are you serious?'"

Despite early hesitance, Jerry Myhan is now eager to take on a three to five year stay in Greece.

Edwards, his wife, Kim, and their three children still at home, Celsi, Jordan and Christian, have many reasons for their decision to move back to the states.

"In a sense we are leaving because we feel we will have accomplished what we set out to do when we came: Find out how to use to the fullest the luxurious property that Harding purchased, train the existing staff, fill in the missing staff positions and make adjustments to the important component of instructional travel," Edwards said.

The Edwards are also excited

to be closer to their four children who are attending colleges and graduate schools all across the United States.

However, Edwards said it will be a bittersweet adjustment to leave the place they have been calling home for the past few years.

Not only will the Myhans have to adjust to leaving home, they will also be leaving their three grown children and granddaughter.

Even so, they are ready to take on the challenge.

The Myhans are not unfamiliar with overseas travel. The family spent three years in Haiti running a health clinic.

They have also been on several trips to Africa for short-term missions and to Florence, Italy. The Myhans look forward to traveling Europe more extensively in the next few years as part of the HUG program.

While preparing for the transition, Jerry Myhan knows he will be busy "working to maintain the excellence that Terry [Edwards] has brought to the HUG program."

Edwards holds complete confidence in Jerry Myhan.

"Jerry and Dianne are the right choice for the job," Edwards said. "Their life, work experience and dedication to Christian education will naturally lead them to see how the HUG program can be made better with every group that crosses the Atlantic to begin their communal life by the blue seas of Greece."

This fall, Edwards will continue his position as chair of the Department of Foreign Languages & International Studies. He will teach Italian, western civilization and ancient world literature.

WEEK ONE: Destination – Mars Hill

Today we took a tour of Athens and climbed Mars Hill. On top, Dr. [Terry] Edwards, [HUG director], read us Paul's speech from Acts 17. It was quite an experience standing on the same spot and listening to his words.

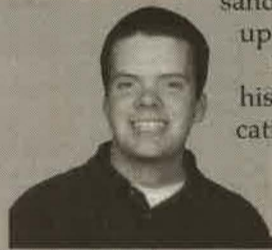
He was quite a courageous man to address the most noble and educated men of his day and negate their view of religion while standing in front of the most massive temples of his day atop the Acropolis. They had a city of learning and great architectural wonders to support their ideas. Paul had only his faith.

Perhaps he wasn't really in danger of physical harm at that particular time, but he was indeed courageous... it is the powers of the mind that are more difficult to overcome than the powers of the body.

Paul's speech didn't affect too many people on that particular day, but today, thousands of years later, a small fraction of Christ's followers stood upon the hill where he stood and listened in awe to his words.

It is amazing to be in the city where so much of the world's history was determined. Much of the culture, language and education of the western world stems from this one city.

—Jeffrey Hunter



Editor's Note: Sophomore Jeffrey Hunter is studying in Greece with the HUG program this semester. He will occasionally be writing a dispatch from Greece about what it's like to be a student in a foreign country.

RENEE LEWIS / Petit Jean

The student's pharmacy is the...



MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

2900 Hawkins Drive • 268-3311



Boyce Arnett, P.D.
Class of '66

Harding alumni
serving
Harding students



Casey Lutrell, P.D.
Class of '97



CURTIS SERIGHT / The Bison

Mayor Belinda LaForce, who was sworn into office earlier this month, talks with a constituent in her office. LaForce is the first woman to serve as mayor of Searcy. She served as city clerk/treasurer before winning the election in November against former alderman Calvin Mitchell.

New mayor is Searcy's first lady

TRACI WHEELER
Contributor

Residents of Searcy elected their first female mayor, Belinda LaForce, during the November elections.

"It's a real privilege and honor to be elected. I see this as an awesome responsibility," said LaForce, who had previously been elected as city clerk/treasurer. "It is a challenge to be a woman in any position of leadership, especially government."

LaForce is pleased and grateful for Searcy's relationship with Harding.

"I agree with Dr. [David] Burks when he mentioned the complimentary relationship between Searcy and Harding," LaForce said. "We need each other."

LaForce also addressed Harding's influence in drawing people to White County's seat.

"Harding introduces people from all over the world to Searcy," LaForce said.

LaForce spoke highly of Harding and the upcoming Day of Outreach, an effort put forth by the Student Association.

"It helps improve the relationship between Harding students and Searcy when they give back to the community," LaForce said. "It's a good thing."

LaForce is dedicated to presenting and accomplishing goals for the community.

She said her unique contribution lays in a written plan for Searcy's future.

"It's different from the past," LaForce said. "There are actual written goals for [Searcy's] infra-

structure and services."

For the city's long term concerns, LaForce expressed excitement for what's ahead.

"We have a guideline for the next five, 10 and 15 years," LaForce said. "Among other things, our goals include capital purchases, growth, annexations and services in new areas."

Searcy's mayor is elected to serve for a term of four years. She is assisted by eight council members, who are reelected every two years.

LaForce said it was her familiarity with the citizens of Searcy that helped her win the election.

"I've worked with the city of Searcy for 26 years," LaForce said. "It helped that the citizens knew my name."

SAC brings country flavor to the Benson

MARINA SHANNON
Staff writer

Country music star Jo Dee Messina is scheduled to rock Harding's Benson Auditorium with her high-energy show Friday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. Reserved seat tickets cost \$15 for Harding students, faculty and staff and will go on sale Feb. 6 at noon in the Benson ticket booth.

As one of country music's most successful female artists, Messina has had five number one hits on the Billboard charts, including "I'm Alright," "Bye, Bye" and "Stand Beside Me." These songs were all featured on her second album

"I'm Alright," which has earned double platinum status and was nominated for the Academy of Country Music's Album of the Year.

She will also be performing songs from her latest album, "Burn," which went platinum in 2002. "Burn" includes songs such as "Downtime," "Dare To Dream" and a duet with her producer Tim McGraw entitled "Bring On The Rain."

Messina was the winner of the Academy of Country Music's Top New Female award as well as the Country Music Association's Horizon Award in 1999. Both awards honor new artists in country music.

Messina has also been nominated multiple times for Top Female Vocalist.

"I think Jo Dee Messina is a great choice for a big concert," junior Rachel Hollis, Student

Activities Committee co-chair, said. "She's fairly well known with a lot of hit songs. We will be able to get a lot of people excited about it and it should be a good show."

Many students are looking forward to seeing Messina. Senior Tyrel Johnson said he is impressed that Harding was able to book a high-caliber performer such as Messina.

"I like a lot of her old songs," Johnson said. "I'm sure I will go and watch the concert. Most of the other people [Harding] has brought have been around for a while. She is a new, popular star so I am surprised she is coming."



Messina

Other students were also surprised that Messina is performing at Harding.

"I'm impressed that Harding could have Jo Dee Messina," senior Jessica Swindle said. "Searcy is a very small town compared to Nashville for hosting concerts. It's great that we have the accommodations to do a concert that size."

Jim Miller, director of student activities, said booking Messina was not as difficult as some students think.

"Most of the artists that have performed at Harding have had very positive experiences," Miller said. "These groups talk about the shows they do with other artists and word spreads. Harding has a good reputation with many artists around the country. That helps when you are trying to book a big name like Jo Dee Messina."

opportunity calling

2003

STUDENTS sign up by FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Governor's Award for Entrepreneurial Development
A BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION FOR ARKANSAS GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS
Information: www.argothersaward.org

\$20,000 1st Place Cash Prize GRADUATES
\$20,000 1st Place Cash Prize UNDERGRADUATES

RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE AWARDS LUNCHEON
NOON, APRIL 30, 2003
STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, LITTLE ROCK





501.374.9247 or email hsellers@arcapital.com

It takes all kinds to win.

call for entries

creator

Managed by Capital Resource Corporation
An affiliate of The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group







Charley's Pizza

809 S. Main
279-7771

Tuesday-Saturday
10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

Students and faculty...
Receive a **10% discount** with Harding I.D.



Starts today!



PRO TIRE & SERVICE CENTER

DANNY FINCH, OWNER/MANAGER

White County's newest & complete tire, wheel & service specialist

alignment, brakes, shocks, struts, battery, CV boot, CV axles, U-joints, wheel balancing, oil & lube, front end repair...





...and parental billing is available!

309 Wisconsin St.
368-TIRE (8473)



'Just Married' is no honeymoon

TODD RAMSEY
Staff writer

You don't really need to spend \$7 on a movie ticket to see the first romantic comedy of 2003. If you own, have seen or merely walked by a television for the past couple of weeks you have seen all you need to see of "Just Married."

Tom (Ashton Kutcher) is the cliché, poor, handsome guy. Sarah (Brittany Murphy) is the cliché, rich, pretty girl. Naturally, they fall in love, much to the disappointment of Sarah's family. They'd rather her marry the cliché, rich, evil ex-boyfriend. Tom and Sarah decide that love is all that matters, get married and head off for their dream honeymoon in Europe. Unfortunately it ends up being more like a nightmare, and they are forced to evaluate their commitment to one another. (That sounds much more romantic than it really is. In reality they try to figure out if they can still put up with each other after five days.) I'm not going to give away the exciting ending, but I'm sure you can figure out what happens.

The movie isn't hilarious but does manage to get a few laughs. Ninety percent of the humor is from accidental injury, anger-induced injury or self-inflicted injury.

Granted, it's funny to watch somebody get hit in the nose, but after about 10 times, (within the first 30 minutes) it gets a little old. Much of the humor is also very predictable. One such scene happens on an airplane. The couple finds themselves in the airplane bathroom and, naturally, one of them ends up with a foot in the toilet. The scene is funny, but it has been done before and with greater success.

Perhaps drawing from their off-screen relationship, Kutcher and Murphy have an amazing on-screen chemistry, which is the only redeeming quality of this movie. If anyone else had been chosen for either role, I'm positive that the movie wouldn't be as funny as it was. Kutcher's innocent stupidity and Murphy's annoying, yet endearing laugh make for some enjoyable moments. However, they are in no way enjoyable enough to sit through a 95-minute movie.

If you're looking for a witty, clever comedy, this probably won't be the movie for you.

The cliché, predictable storyline is too weak to carry so few funny moments. I recommend turning on your TV and trying to catch the commercials; you'll get just as much out of the movie as those of us who paid \$7. "Just Married" just isn't that good.

Critic's **"Just Married"** Corner

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Arabic letter
- 4 Fr. priest
- 8 Barge
- 12 Kimono sash
- 13 Mayan year
- 14 Sayings (suf.)
- 15 E. Indian timber tree
- 16 Calm
- 18 Lop
- 20 Fr. artist
- 21 Month abbr.
- 23 Musical instrument (string)
- 27 Bonga (2 words)
- 32 Counsel
- 33 River (Sp.)
- 34 Of vision
- 36 Sheep disease
- 37 Fraction of a rupee
- 39 Kind of gypsum
- 41 Small anvil
- 43 Licensed practical nurse (abbr.)

DOWN

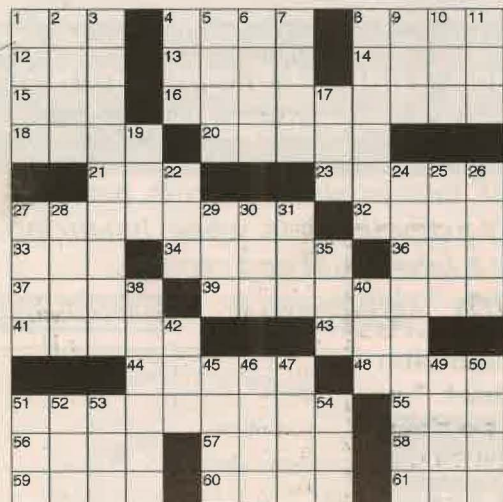
- 1 Tufted plant
- 2 Dayak people
- 3 Stele
- 4 Asian gazelle
- 5 Judges' bench
- 6 Pressure (pref.)
- 7 Ivory (Lat.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

```

A B C S   M A P O   O W L
B E E T   A W A Y   H A I
S E R A   N O N S E N S E
A B I E L   T R E T
H A S L E T   H E N
E N T E R   D A R   D B L
A S E   L A B   I I I
L A S   B O B   W A S T E
K E A   D O G G E D
A C E A   J O K E R
D R E A D F U L   N A I D
N A B   L O B O   O C T A
A B U   E G E R   R E A D
    
```

- 8 Sieve
- 9 Rom. first day of the month
- 10 Unity
- 11 Gob
- 17 Pro
- 19 River into the North Sea
- 22 Palestine
- Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
- 24 Basic
- 25 Revise
- 26 Give up
- 27 Unruly child
- 28 One (Ger.)
- 29 Nat'l Park Service (abbr.)
- 30 Shoshonean
- 31 Sesame
- 35 Celsius (abbr.)
- 38 To the rear
- 40 Negative population growth (abbr.)
- 42 Stowe character
- 45 Golden wine
- 46 Yahi tribe survivor
- 47 Tree
- 49 Galatea's beloved
- 50 Indian music
- 51 Mine roof support
- 52 Mountain on Crete
- 53 Modernist
- 54 Compass direction



Best of 2002

A listing of the best movies that last year had to offer

CHRIS KEE
Contributor
JEREMY D. BEAUCHAMP
Editor

Every year, reviewers from newspapers across the nation fill up one column with their ridiculous choices for best pictures of the year and hand out pointless, verbal awards to the actors, actresses and directors they deem most worthy. *The Bison* is no different.

We wanted to use this space to talk about our favorite films of 2002. Of course, since we are both poor students at Harding University, we can only list the movies we actually got to see. So you will not see any art films, obscure documentaries or foreign films on our list. Below is our brief compilation of the best movies from 2002.

1. "Signs" — Crop circles are appearing all over the world and no one knows why. Are these made by aliens, a fanatical religious group or is this simply a worldwide hoax? Writer/Director/Producer/Actor M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense," "Unbreakable") takes the premise of alien invasion and turns it into one man's search for his lost faith in God. Graham Hess (Mel Gibson) is a widower and former pastor who has to hold his family together while faced with the unexplained events that are throwing the entire world into chaos.

CK: I loved this movie. M. Night Shyamalan is riding high after his third hit movie. Does anyone in Hollywood put this much heart and thought into pictures anymore?

JB: Even though it's about aliens, it manages to touch on deeper issues such as faith and coincidence. Funny and sad, one of the few movies to bring me close to tears. I loved the scene in the cellar with the son and

the God analogy.

CK: Most directors would have cut that scene where Hess comforts his child suffering through an asthma attack. One of two of my favorite scenes in the movie with the other being....

JB:that birthday party home video from Brazil where the alien steps out of the bushes!

CK: Exactly!
JB: Sick.

2. "Minority Report" — Director Steven Spielberg offers us a frightening future overseen

by an invasive government that maintains a murder-free Washington D.C. Psychics (called Precogs) see murders before they occur and all is well until officer John Anderton (Tom Cruise) is framed for a murder he has yet to commit. The hunter becomes the hunted. Dazzling visuals frame a eerily possible future that questions the very notion of freewill.

JB: It's cool, it's original, it's Spielberg. Then again, I enjoyed "A.I." but virtually no one else did.

CK: The last 15 minutes of "A.I." totally wrecked what was an otherwise good movie but Spielberg bounced back quite nicely with "Minority Report" and "Catch Me If You Can."

JB: A double-threat guy. Chris, what was your favorite scene?

CK: Well, this movie lived up to all the hype. If any scene stands out in my mind it is when Anderton (Cruise) drops his eyeballs and has to chase them down the corridor.

JB: A lesser man would say that it was an 'eye' opening experience. Not me.

CK: Thanks for resisting the temptation.

3. "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" — The second film in the Lord of the Rings trilogy finds the fellowship of the ring splintered into smaller groups as war looms on the horizon. This time we have more action and we get a formal introduction to the lifelike computer generated Gollum as he leads Frodo and Sam to Mordor to destroy the

Ring. Again Director Peter Jackson brings Tolkien's Middle Earth to vibrant life.

JB: Exciting. What did you think of the Ents, those strange tree creatures?

CK: My initial fear was that these would be the goofiest things ever to grace the big screen but surprisingly, these did not come across as bad as I thought they would. I liked seeing them in action against the Orcs.

JB: Yeah, there was more action this time around. Several Tolkienites have complained about Director Peter Jackson's razor, saying he cut from the book and posted wherever he pleased. He saved some big moments in book two for the big finale.

CK: But the essence of the story remains — just the fact that Jackson has filmed a movie many believed to be un-filmable is a testament to his care and knowledge of the source material.

JB: Bring on "The Return of the King."

4. "Catch Me If You Can" — Leonardo DiCaprio plays Frank Abagnale Jr. and Tom Hanks plays FBI Agent Carl Hanratty in Director Steven Spielberg's other chase movie of 2002. Abagnale, a master of deception, worked as a doctor, lawyer and airline copilot all before his 18th birthday. Abagnale was also a master at forging checks and thus became the most successful bank robber in United States history. He is pursued across America by Hanratty but is always one step ahead. Based on a true story.

CK: Spielberg is such a master at what he does. He moves between genres with such ease. He does the serious futuristic thriller "Minority Report" and this movie in the same year. It reminds me of when he released "Jurassic Park" and "Schindler's List" back in '94.

JB: He is the master. I found the film to be upbeat and stylish. This film relaxed the holiday tension and, you're right, it gave Spielberg a Ying to his Yang. Oh, and Christopher Walken was definitely in the house.

CK: I thought he stole the show with his performance of Frank Sr.

Honorable mentions: "Spiderman," "Ice Age," "Ocean's Eleven," and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."



Super China Buffet

3208 E. Race

An "all you can eat" buffet with a special price for Harding students:

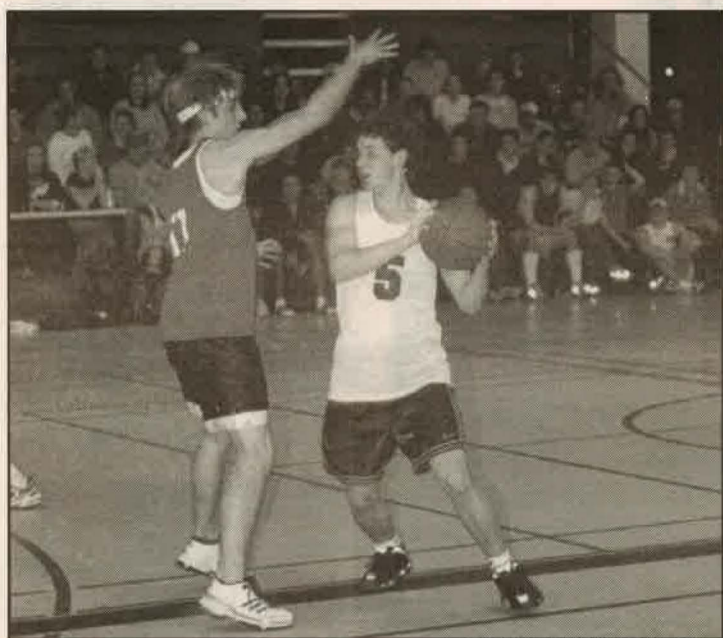
Lunch buffet: \$5
Dinner buffet: \$6

Choose from jumbo fried shrimp, steak, peel-and-eat shrimp, dim sum, sushi roll, fruit, ice cream and much, much more!

Or, carry it out by the pound!

Lunch: \$2.45/lb
Dinner: \$3.55/lb

Call **368-8883** for reservations and receive a 10% discount (private room available)



CURTIS SERIGHT / The Bison

Junior Knights member Matt Fecteau tries to move the ball Tuesday against a member of Pi Kappa Epsilon in a large-club A-level basketball game. Pi Kappa Epsilon defeated Knights to move to the next round in the winners' bracket. Club basketball will continue through March.

Shantih, TNT on track to defend top trophies

RYAN COOK
Sports editor

At the end of the fall semester, standings for the social club all-sports trophies were looking similar to last year.

TNT had a stranglehold on the men's large A-level title, which would be their 11th in a row, with a 28-21 edge over second-place King's Men.

After last year's half-point A-level title over Knights, TNT Athletic Director Lance Leslie wasn't ready to declare victory yet.

"It's never locked up," he said. "... Last year, it was Knights, sometimes it's Titans, this year it's King's Men."

TNT also had a commanding lead in the large B race. The club won both football and volleyball at the A and B levels.

Among small and medium men's clubs, Delta Chi Delta leads both A and B standings. But Kappa Sigma Kappa is one point behind at the A level, while second-year club Gamma Sigma Phi is a single point back at the B level.

In women's A-level competition, Shantih won potluck softball and volleyball to take a half-point lead over Zeta Rho.

"We're just going to try to go out there and have fun," Shantih Athletic Director Jennifer Skinner said. "Hopefully, we'll stay No. 1."

Club leaders

Men's Large A	
TNT	28
King's Men	21
Titans	19
Men's Large B	
TNT	28
Titans	23
King's Men	18.5
Men's Small A	
Delta Chi Delta	26
Kappa Sigma Kappa	25
Gamma Sigma Phi	23
Men's Small B	
Delta Chi Delta	22
Gamma Sigma Phi	21
Kappa Sigma Kappa	20.5
Women's A	
Shantih	23
Zeta Rho	22.5
Delta Gamma Rho	16.5
Women's B	
Delta Gamma Rho	23.5
Shantih	21.5
Omega Lambda Chi	14.5
Women's C	
Ju Go Ju	21
Ko Jo Kai	19.5
Delta Gamma Rho	18.5

Delta Gamma Rho and Ju Go Ju lead women's B and C standings, respectively.

Club basketball, the first sport of the spring, started last week. Track, swimming, softball and women's soccer are still to come.

Lady Bisons start 2-2 in GSC

RYAN COOK
Sports editor

After winning just 10 games in the entire 2001-2002 season, the Lady Bisons have matched that total already and were 2-2 in Gulf South Conference play before Thursday night's game against Christian Brothers.

Results of that contest were not available at press time.

The Lady Bisons (10-4, 2-2 GSC) have displayed a balanced attack, ranking near the middle of the conference in most statistical categories, including eighth among 18 teams in both scoring offense and scoring defense.

"We're where we hoped and envisioned we would be," coach Brad Francis said. "From the first game of the year to now, we've made a lot of improvement."

Harding will play Ouachita Baptist on Monday, a team that was also 2-2 in GSC play before Thursday's games. The Lady Bisons return home Thursday to take on perennial power Arkansas Tech, ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Division II South Region and No. 10 nationally.

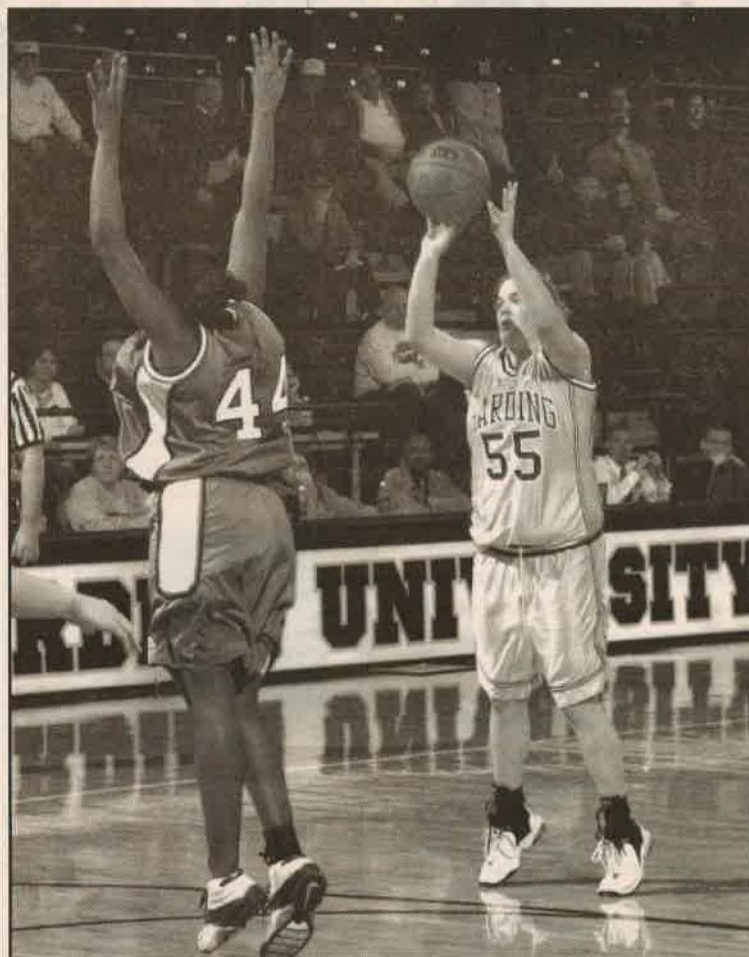
"They're both teams that were picked to finish high in the conference," Francis said. "They're in that group of teams you're going to have to beat to make the conference tournament."

Prior to a 80-50 loss at No. 6 Central Arkansas on Monday, Harding had won five of its last six games dating back to Dec. 28. The lone loss in that stretch was a 58-54 setback Jan. 9 at Delta State.

Harding's GSC wins both came last week at Rhodes Field House. The Lady Bisons overcame a 15-point first half by shooting 59 percent in the second half to defeat Arkansas-Monticello, 48-44, on Jan. 13.

A buzzer-beater from senior Julie Hammitt on Jan. 16 gave Harding a 73-71 win against Southern Arkansas. The Lady Bisons had led by as many as 12 points in the second half, but the Riderettes rallied to force Hammitt's clutch shot from five feet.

Injuries have hampered the



JEFF MONTGOMERY / Harding Public Relations

Going up on her toes, sophomore Jamie Simpkins attempts a 3-pointer against Arkansas-Monticello's Gabrielle Caldwell during the Lady Bisons' 48-44 victory Jan. 13. Simpkins tied her career high with 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, against the Cotton Blossoms.

Lady Bisons all season. Senior Susan Berry planned to play Thursday against CBU after missing nearly a month with an ACL injury. Junior Tiffany Phillips was out for a game and a half after fracturing her index finger against Delta State.

Freshmen Chelsea Simpson and Misty Tuley have filled in for the injured starters. Simpson scored 14 points against UAM and is fourth on the team in points per game.

"Going into the year, just by the sheer number of freshmen, we know that we would need them to contribute in a big way for us," Francis said.

Phillips is leading Harding with nearly 14 points per game, while senior Heather Lawrence has seven double-doubles this year.

Women's BB

West Division	GSC	All
Henderson State	5-0	12-4
Arkansas Tech	4-1	13-2
Delta State	3-1	10-2
Central Arkansas	3-2	14-2
Ouachita Baptist	2-2	9-5
Harding	2-2	10-4
Southern Arkansas	1-4	6-9
Ark.-Monticello	0-4	7-5
Christian Brothers	0-4	3-12

This week's games

Thursday, Jan. 23 (scores not available at press time)		
CBU at HU	UAM at SAU	
UCA at DSU	OBU at HSU	
Monday, Jan. 27		
HU at OBU	UCA at UAM	
DSU at CBU	HSU at ATU	
Thursday, Jan. 30		
ATU at HU	SAU at UCA	
UAM at CBU	DSU at OBU	

For the record

MEN'S BASKETBALL (11-4, 3-1 GSC)	
Played CBU Thurs.; Result not available	
Nov. 22 at Montevallo	W, 105-84
Nov. 23 Alabama-Huntsville	W, 83-80
Dec. 3 Arkansas Baptist	W, 11-75
Dec. 6 Central Baptist	W, 96-59
Dec. 7 Montevallo	W, 95-66
Dec. 14 at Southwest Baptist	W, 87-61
Dec. 17 at Louisiana Tech	L, 55-76
Dec. 29 Fort Valley State	L, 86-87
Dec. 30 Lane	W, 107-64
Jan. 4 at Arkansas-Little Rock	L, 80-82
Jan. 9 at Delta State	L, 66-67
Jan. 11 Philander Smith	W, 106-72
Jan. 13 Arkansas-Monticello	W, 88-67
Jan. 16 vs. Southern Arkansas	W, 95-71
Jan. 20 at Central Arkansas	W, 105-97(ot)
Jan. 23 Christian Brothers	-----
Jan. 27 at Ouachita Baptist	8 p.m.
Jan. 30 Arkansas Tech	8 p.m.
Feb. 1 at Henderson State	8 p.m.
Feb. 6 Delta State	8 p.m.
Feb. 10 at Arkansas-Monticello	8 p.m.
Feb. 15 at Southern Arkansas	8 p.m.
Feb. 17 Central Arkansas	8 p.m.
Feb. 20 at Christian Brothers	8 p.m.
Feb. 24 Ouachita Baptist	8 p.m.
Feb. 27 at Arkansas Tech	8 p.m.
Mar. 1 Henderson State	8 p.m.
Mar. 6-8	
Gulf South Conference Tournament	

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (10-4, 2-2 GSC)	
Played CBU Thurs.; Result not available	
Nov. 23 at North Alabama	L, 54-71
Nov. 25 at Lyon	W, 82-72
Nov. 29 Texas A&M-Commerce	W, 62-60
Nov. 30 Alabama-Huntsville	W, 60-51
Dec. 6 Missouri-Rolla	W, 70-46
Dec. 7 Lyon	W, 74-48
Dec. 14 at Southwest Baptist	L, 53-74
Dec. 28 West Alabama	W, 80-69
Dec. 29 at Mississippi-Women	W, 75-62
Jan. 6 Williams Baptist	W, 83-55
Jan. 9 at Delta State	L, 54-58
Jan. 13 Arkansas-Monticello	W, 48-44
Jan. 16 Southern Arkansas	W, 73-71
Jan. 20 at Central Arkansas	L, 50-80
Jan. 23 Christian Brothers	-----
Jan. 27 at Ouachita Baptist	6 p.m.
Jan. 30 Arkansas Tech	6 p.m.
Feb. 1 at Henderson State	6 p.m.
Feb. 3 Central Baptist	6 p.m.
Feb. 6 Delta State	6 p.m.
Feb. 10 at Arkansas-Monticello	6 p.m.
Feb. 15 at Southern Arkansas	6 p.m.
Feb. 17 Central Arkansas	6 p.m.
Feb. 20 at Christian Brothers	6 p.m.
Feb. 24 Ouachita Baptist	6 p.m.
Feb. 27 at Arkansas Tech	6 p.m.
Mar. 1 Henderson State	6 p.m.
Mar. 5-8	
Gulf South Conference Tournament	

Around the horn

• Junior Janet Kogo was named Division II South Region Athlete of the Year by the region's cross country coaches. She won five of her eight races this season and placed 15th at Nationals.

• Senior defensive lineman Floyd Black represented the school Jan. 10 at the Cactus Bowl in Kingsville, Texas. The game is an annual contest involving around 60 of the top Division II football players. Playing for the East squad, which won 19-7, Black had two solo tackles and three assisted tackles, including one sack.

• The football team garnered numerous other honors following its 9-2 season. Notable among them are senior Tim Love, junior Tim Polk and senior Chad Eason being named to the *Football Gazette* All-South Region First Team. Love and Eason were tabbed as third team All-American by the *Gazette*.

• The schedules for Harding's spring sports have been released. The track team opens its indoor season this weekend at the Arkansas State Invitational in Jonesboro. Baseball gets underway Feb. 1 with a home doubleheader against Williams Baptist. Tennis opens at Hendrix Feb. 4 and 6. The golf season starts in March.



PIZZA BUFFET!

\$3.99

(Free drink w/ this coupon)

Sunday-Friday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday Night: 5 - 8 p.m.

268-9000

Delivery: Sunday-Thursday until Midnight

Friday & Saturday until 1 a.m.

Free "Meal Deal"

with purchase of a regular-sized sub (present this coupon)

Bo Hill, Owner

Harding Alumnus / Class of '87

• Dine-in or Carry-out
• Catering w/free delivery

Mon.-Sat.: 10:30-9
Sunday: 11-7:30



sub shop

2412 E. Race

(Next to Premiere Video and Tan)

368-8045

Sports Teams Social Clubs • Student Groups

Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser three-hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works!

Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888)923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

Ryan Cook

Bleacher
BumHU perfect at
Rowdy home

Officially, 895 people witnessed the Bisons' 105-97 overtime victory Monday night at Central Arkansas' Farris Center. That might be a little generous.

And, what's worse, at least a third of those fans were there to cheer for the black and gold.

Granted, UCA's Bears are having a dismal season. But that team showed talent against the Bisons that should earn them more than 500 of their own fans a night — especially when you consider UCA has 9,000 students.

The handful of Harding students who made the school-night journey even outshouted the UCA cheerleaders a few times with a chant of "de-fense."

Coach Jeff Morgan was justifiably excited after the win.

"Anytime you win on the road in this league, it's a great plus," he said. "I was proud of our guys; the way they battled."



Morgan

But the Bisons haven't only found success on the road. They were 6-0 at home entering Thursday night's game at Rhodes Field House.

"We've got to take care of home, and maybe steal one of those on the road," Morgan said. A big part of Harding's home-court advantage, of course, is the crowd. The Rhodes Rowdies are reaching new heights this year, averaging more than 2,000 fans per game — double the home average of every other team in the Gulf South Conference.

"I said two years ago that our fans would have a huge impact on this league and everybody would be trying to copy us and create it," Morgan said. "So far, nobody's been able to do that. They haven't even come close."

Morgan only cites one negative that the Rowdies create.

"It's a great atmosphere, and it's a lot of fun," he said. "... The only negative is that every team we play can't wait to get here and play. ... We never catch anybody flat.

"This is one of those games they circle on the calendar, because this is the only time all year they get to play in front of a big-time college atmosphere where it's a lot of fun."

With each new season, a new generation of Rowdies comes up with new ways to distract and/or intimidate visiting teams. New this season is one of my favorite tactics.

The Rowdies sing a whole verse of "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands," replacing "Happy" with "Winning."

Then, the second verse: "If You're Losing ..." At the time to clap, the Rowdies point toward the visiting team's bench.

It's an instant classic. If you haven't bothered yet, come and see for yourself. Do your part to see that the Bisons never have to play in front of 895 people at home.

Big time: Junior-college transfers Ibrahim,
Butvydas anchor Bisons at centerCODY USHER
Staff writer

The Bison basketball team is off to one of the best starts in school history. One reason for the 11-4 beginning is Harding's international big men, Regimantas Butvydas and Yahaya Ibrahim.

Butvydas is originally from Silute, Lithuania. The 6-8, 260-pound senior is in his second season as a Bison. Butvydas began playing basketball at the age of 13 in his homeland. He stressed the importance of the sport in Lithuania.



Butvydas

"Basketball is like a sacred religion in Lithuania," Butvydas said. "Everybody plays basketball."

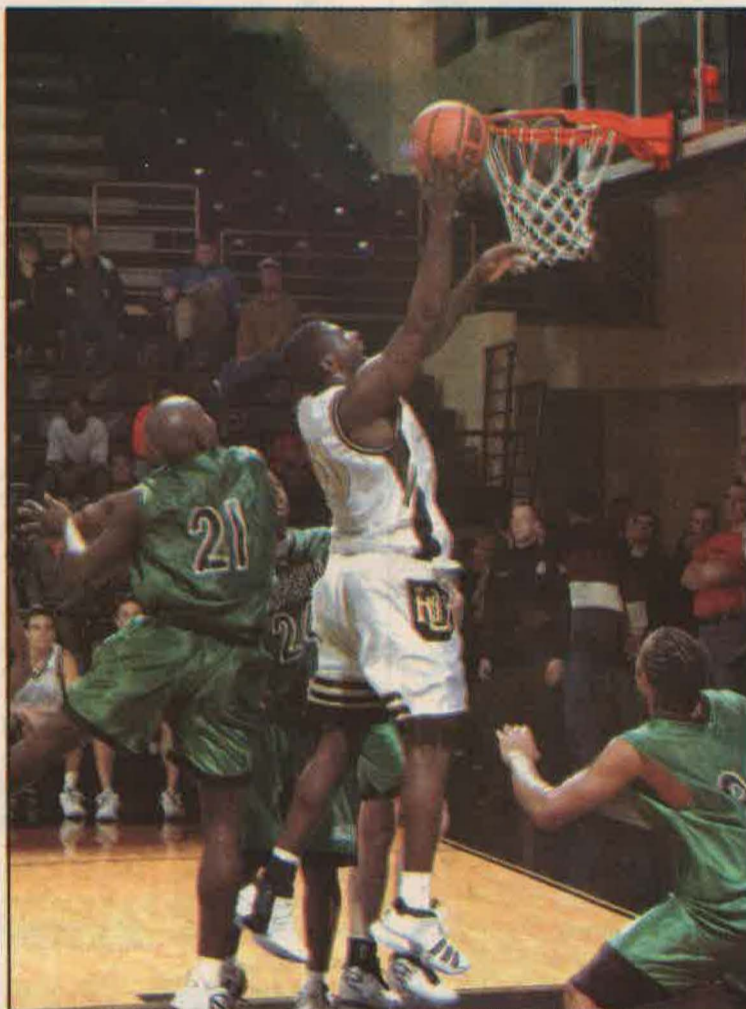
Butvydas heard about playing in the United States from his cousin who went to high school in Alabama. Five of his high school teammates in Lithuania came to the U.S. to play college basketball. The coach of Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana recruited Butvydas to play for him.

"August 21, 1999, I arrived in Shreveport," Butvydas said. "It was like a dream." Butvydas suffered from culture shock when he first arrived. His expectations were different than what he saw in America. It also took him time to adjust to the food.

"I couldn't eat for two weeks," Butvydas said. "I lost a bunch of weight from the food and because I was homesick."

Butvydas came to Harding because coach Jeff Morgan had a good relationship with Butvydas' coach at Bossier Parish, Jason Tinsley. Harding needed big men, and Tinsley told Butvydas that he did not need to go anywhere else.

Butvydas' plan for the future is to stay in the United States and look for a job in international business.



JEFF MONTGOMERY / Harding Public Relations

Undaunted by the Arkansas-Monticello defense, junior Yahaya Ibrahim goes up for a dunk during the Bisons' 88-67 victory Jan. 13. Ibrahim has started all 15 games for the Bisons, averaging seven points and four rebounds in 18 minutes per contest.

Butvydas averages 4.5 points and 2.9 rebounds per game for the Bisons. He scored a season-high 10 points against Philander Smith.

Ibrahim has a similar story. The 6-7, 250-pound junior originally hails from Lagos, Nigeria. Ibrahim has only played basketball for 10 years. He started playing in high school and played for the Nigerian junior national team. He decided to play basketball despite being a standout in soccer.

"Both players are great guys. Regi has done great academically; Yahaya is really quiet, but everybody likes them. They make good teammates."

Coach Jeff Morgan

"In Nigeria, everyone plays soccer," Ibrahim said. "I had several offers to play soccer for club teams throughout my country, but I wanted to play basketball."

Ibrahim came to America after Three Rivers Community College coach Gene Bess made a recruiting trip to Africa.

"The coach saw that I was big and strong," Ibrahim said. "I told him playing basketball in America was my goal, and he signed me."

Ibrahim has started every game for the Bisons this season and is averaging seven points and four rebounds per game. Ibrahim has scored in double figures three times, including a 14-point performance Dec. 6 against Central Baptist.

Morgan says he got both Butvydas and Ibrahim on the basis of good working relationships with their junior-college coaches.

"The coaches know we have a great program and a good school," Morgan said. "They are eager to send players our way. They know that international players like the family-type atmosphere that Harding provides."

Butvydas and Ibrahim add things both on and off the court.

"Both players are great guys," Morgan said. "Regi has done great academically; Yahaya is really quiet, but everybody likes them. They make good teammates."

Early wins put Bisons in GSC West race

RYAN COOK
Sports editor

Last season, the Bisons lost three of their first four Gulf South Conference games and had to fight to the very end to finish 8-8 in league play and qualify for the tournament.

This season, Harding is showing no intention of being in that position.

The Bisons (11-4, 3-1 GSC) were in a four-way tie for second place in the GSC West entering Thursday night's home game against Christian Brothers (11-5, 3-1). Results of that contest were not available at press time.

The Bisons will play at Ouachita Baptist on Monday, then wrap up the first half of their home GSC slate Thursday against Arkansas Tech.

"[Tech] has a lot of people back from last year," coach Jeff Morgan said. "They have a couple new inside guys. We don't expect anything but a good old Gulf South Conference war. They're a lot like us. They shoot the ball well."

HU leads the conference by a wide margin with 91 points



JEFF MONTGOMERY / Harding Public Relations

The Bisons huddle around coach Jeff Morgan and assistant coach Tim Kirby during their recent win against Arkansas-Monticello. The team was ranked No. 7 in the NCAA Division II South Region poll released Tuesday.

per game and is the only team in the GSC shooting better than 50 percent from the field and better than 75 percent from the free-throw line.

Senior Jason Malek is leading the Bisons in both scoring (18.6 points per game) and rebounding (7.2 per game).

Senior Aaron Farley is close behind with 17.9 points per game and is perfect (54 of 54) from the free-throw line so far this season. He has made 67 straight dating back to last season.

"It's great for him and it's great

for our program," Morgan said. "It's one of those things. We've been fortunate to shoot well from the line, and that's something we need to continue to do."

While the GSC-leading offense has been making headlines, Morgan said the Bisons need to keep working on their defense, which is ranked 11th in the conference in points allowed per game.

"Our defense needs to be better, and we need to continue to play with a lot of energy," Morgan said. "When we play with a lot of energy, and we play really aggres-

Men's BB

West Division	GSC	All
Henderson State	5-0	14-2
Delta State	3-1	10-2
Harding	3-1	11-4
Christian Brothers	3-1	11-5
Ouachita Baptist	3-1	9-6
Arkansas Tech	2-3	7-6
Central Arkansas	1-4	1-13
Ark-Monticello	0-4	5-10
Southern Arkansas	0-5	4-12

This week's games

Thursday, Jan. 23 (scores not available at press time)		
CBU at HU	UAM at SAU	
UCA at DSU	OBU at HSU	
Monday, Jan. 27		
HU at OBU	UCA at UAM	
DSU at CBU	HSU at ATU	
Wednesday, Jan. 29		
Philander Smith at HSU		
Thursday, Jan. 30		
ATU at HU	SAU at UCA	
UAM at CBU	DSU at OBU	

sively on defense, that's when our defense is at its best."

The Bisons started conference play with a controversial 77-76 loss at Delta State, but rebounded with three blowouts in a row at home (106-72 against Philander Smith, 88-67 against Arkansas-Monticello and 95-71 against Southern Arkansas).