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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

FROM STAFF REPORTS

S

errey police arrested a 16-year-old male in connection with a fire in a room 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 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 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 rapidly anticipating the reopening. Steve Ritter, Aramark’s director of food service, said that business has been markedly slow.

“Numbers are down, but it’s hard to quantify because we can’t count the business 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, Civilian, Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs were lost in the blaze, each group is planning to use catering’s services and are meeting in other rooms until the renovation is completed.

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

“The items that were 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 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

F

reshman Robert Groves and senior Eden Taylor were called from the classroom to active duty in support of operation “Enduring Freedom” Jan. 31. 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 their future military 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 Jan. 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 civilian 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 Epilson 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 her month of active duty Jan. 15 in Little Rock. Taylor’s unit 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...”

A time to register

Jeff Montgomery/Harding Public Relations

Freshman Mark Fitzgerald discusses his financial situation with Martha Hodges, administrative assistant, during spring registration in the Ganus Athletic Center Jan. 7. Although officials have not confirmed plans, Todd Shepherd, 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.
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 think more of me. The way others see me is one thing, 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 hair that is 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 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 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.

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 hair that is a lot of girls envy. I love God.

Are you willing to die for oil? Protestors 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 (actually I have been given the same scolding by a number of friends), I decided that I desperately needed to think more of me, the way others see me. The way others see me is one thing, 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 hair that is a lot of girls envy. I love God.

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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 beautiful 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 right in 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

I don’t want to be drafted. I don’t want the government to have the power to take my life. 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 feeling 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’s sure victory." -Mark Leonard, sophomore

"I have no idea who’s even playing, so I am going to go to every Super Bowl gathering at the Speedway." -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.

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The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality, student-written discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves 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 Mide. 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 writers 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 577560) paid at Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University Box 11192, Searcy, AR 72149-0000. Contact The Bison office at 501-279-4473 or 501-279-4475 or send faxes to 501-279-4217. The Bison is online at www.harding.edu/thebin.

January 24, 2003
Students leave concerned friends
Continued from page 1

my orders will not be decided un­
til February.”

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

“It seems that in situations such as these the
university tries its best to work
with the students so that their will­
ingness to serve our country is not
a hindrance to pursuing their fu­ture careers,” Larry Long, associ­ate
vice president for academic af­
sairs, said.

The Army Reserves is the
only branch of the military that
has 95% of its enlisted men and
women involved in civil af­
airs. Civil affairs is one of the
most deployed military occu­
pational specialties in the
armed forces due to the spe­
cialized role they play in mil­
itary occupations.

The civil affairs field manual
states that their mission is to sup­
port the commander’s relationship
with civil authorities and promote mission legiti­
macy and enhance military effec­
tiveness. 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
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 Greek 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, Celci, 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 luxuriously property that Harding purchased, trained 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 bottlesweet 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 grandchildren.

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 looks 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.

The student’s pharmacy is the...

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Boyce Arnett, P.D.
Class of ‘66

Casey Lutrell, P.D.
Class of ‘97

In Depth
January 24, 2003

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 director of the about being back in Searcy is having more people around. The fall program in Greece, however, 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 HUG I lived and had classes with the same people,” junior Sarah West said. “I had become used to that.”

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. “[While] 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 Kate 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 HUG, I am now striving to be a better Christian.”

Curtis Berger/ The Bison

Junior Nick Faris and senior Josh Hartman pose next to a sign in the hallway. Both Faris and Hartman spent the fall semester studying in Greece with around 40 other Harding students.

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 ideals. 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’ll be occasionally writing a dispatch from Greece about what it’s like to be a student in a foreign country.
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.

LaForce 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.

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, during the November elections.

"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."

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."

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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, 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 "Downtownie," "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 are given by the industry for 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 that she impressed 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."

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

"I'm impressed that Harding could have Jo Dee Messina," senior Sarah 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."
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 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 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 it away, 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 scene, a car chase 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, dever comedy, this probably won't be the movie for you.

The cliché, predictable storyline is too weak to carry so few funny moments. I recommended 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.

CHRISS KEE
Contributor
JEREMY D. BEAUCHAMP
Editor

Every year, reviewers from newspapers and television critics 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 list 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 say 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 simply a group of hoaxes? Writer/Director/Producer/Actor M. Night Shyamalan (“The Sixth Sense”) 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.

2. "Minority Report" — Director Steven Spielberg offers us a frighteningly 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. His only escape is to hunt the hunted. Dazzling visuals frame a eerily possible future that questions the very notion of freewill. But: 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.

3. "A Beautiful Mind" — A double-throat gay, 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 eyelashes and has to chase them down the corridor. JB: A lesser man would say that it was an 'eye' opening experience. Not me.

4. "Unbreakable" — The story remains—just the fact that Jackson has filmed a movie many believed to be unfilmable is a testament to his care and knowledge of the source material.

5. "The Return of the King" — "Catch Me If You Can" — Leonardo DiCaprio plays Frank Abagnale Jr. and Tom Hanks0 plays FBI Agent Carl Hanratty in 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 released on September 11 and, you’re right, it gave Spielberg a Ying to his Yang. Oh, and Christian Bale was definitely in the house.

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 strong hold on the men’s large A-level title, which would be their 11th in a row, with a 28-21 edge over second-place Zeta Rho.

“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 Phi Psi 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.”

The Lady Bisons all season, Senior Susan Phillips planned to try basketball against Ark­ansas-Monticello’s Gabrielle Caldwell during the Lady Bisons’ victory 48-44 Jan. 13. Simmons tied her career high with 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, against the Cotton Blossoms.

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 and earned first team All-American honors at both nationals.

• Senior defensive lineman Floyd Black represented the school Jan. 10 at the Cactus Bowl in King­sville, Texas. The game was an annual contest involving around 50 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 a defensive line led by 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 William Baptist. Tennis opens at Hensdall Feb. 4 and 6. The golf season starts in March.
**Sports**

**The Bison**

**January 24, 2003**

**Ryan Cook**

**Bleacher Bum**

**HU perfect at Rowdy home**

Officially, 995 people witnessed the Bisons’ 105-97 overtime victory Monday night at Central Arkansas’ Farris Center. That might be a record.

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 “def-eence.”

Coed: Jordan Usher

Staff writer

The Bison basketball team is off to one of the best starts in school history. One reason? Those on the bench have taken a stand.

Butvydas is originally from Lithuania. The 6-8, 240-pound senior is in his second season as a Bison. Butvydas has found success on the road. They only found success on the road. They

Butvydas was trying to copy us and create instant classics.

The only time all year they get to play in front of 895 people at home.

"If we can’t wait to get here and play and have that crowd, the Rhodes Rowdies are going to have a huge impact on the weekend’s game at Rhodes Field House. Butvydas is from a generation of Rowdies comes up against us,

"You’re going to be a little generous. The Bisons started conference play- double the home average of every other team in the Gulf South Conference.

"We’ve got to take care of this league and everybody would know that international players like the family-type atmosphere that Harding is famous for.

Butvydas and Ibrahim add depth on the bench and are eager to contribute.

"You’re going to be a little generous. The Bisons started conference play-

Butvydas averages 4.5 points and 2.9 rebounds per game for the Bisons, averaging seven points and four rebounds in 18 minutes per contest.

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.

The Rowdies create.

"Anytime you win on the road in this league, it’s a great plus," said Morgan. "We’re proud of our guys; the way they played tonight.

The Rowdies make the Bisons play with a controversial 77-76 win.

"If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands," replacing "Happy" with "Winning."" They’ve got to adjust to the food.

"The Rowdies have been 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 game." They’re a lot like us. They shoot the ball well."

HU leads the conference by a wide margin with 91 points 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 to a double-double with 91 points and four rebounds in 18 minutes per contest.

The Bisons started conference play- double the home average of every other team in the Gulf South Conference.

"Ibrahim has a similar story. The 6-7, 210-pound junior originally hailed 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.

This season, Harding is 7-4 in the South Region.

"Ibraham is one of my favorite tactics. 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.

"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 heard several offers to play soccer for club teams throughout my country, but I wanted to play basketball."

Ibrahim arrived in America after Three Rivers Community College coach Gene Boso 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 Ibrahim and Yahaya on the basis of good working relationships with their junior-college coaches.

"I didn’t know that we were going to have a great program and a great school," Morgan said. "They are eager to send players our way. They know that international players like the family-type atmosphere that Harding is famous for.

Butvydas and Ibrahim add depth on the court. "They 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) are 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 game slate Thursday against Arkansas Tech.

"There was something in the air. We’re going to have 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 game. They’re a lot like us. They shoot the ball well."

HU leads the conference by a wide margin with 91 points 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 to a double-double with 91 points and four rebounds in 18 minutes per contest.

"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 aggressively on defense, that’s when our defense is at its best." The Bisons started conference play with a controversial 77-75 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).