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Administration mulling creation of physician assistant program

It would be only one of its kind in Arkansas, officials say

**STEVEN PROFAIZER**

Student reporter

Harding administrators are currently investigating the possibility of adding a physician assistant master's level program to the catalog.

The program would be aimed at both Harding graduates and non-Harding graduates seeking to obtain a PA certification.

A PA is a health professional who is licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. While a PA has the authority to diagnose and treat illnesses, that authority is limited.

A PA must be able to contact a physician even if working at a remote site.

In fact, according to Dr. Debbie Duke, chairman of the Health Sciences Committee, one of the advantages of having a PA in a practice is extending the area of service to rural areas where the supervising physician may not be able to work.

A typical program takes at least two years to finish, with students completing at least one year of classroom instruction and one year of clinical work.

Duke said students enrolled in some PA programs complete the equivalent of 110 semester hours during the two years.

"A PA program is a rigorous program," Dr. Larry Long, associate vice president for academic affairs, said. "It is a full-time commitment. Those involved must really want to be successful."

Over the last several years, there has been increasing student interest in PA programs, and some Harding graduates have headed to other universities in pursuit of careers as PA's, Duke said.

"Bringing a PA program to Harding would bring a great opportunity to a smaller school and a great town," senior Lacey Warren, a biology major, said.

Partially in response to meeting student interest, a number of individuals began researching PA programs last semester, and a seven-member committee organized this semester to discuss the feasibility of bringing a PA program to the Harding campus.

"The more we look into the possibility, the more encouraged we become about this opportunity," Duke said. "We haven't come across a closed door yet."

If the committee obtains approval for the creation of a PA program at Harding, it would be the only one of its kind in the state, Long said.

"This program would be a great service to the state," Duke said. "It would not only be a service to this state, changed but to the whole world. Harding students come from all 50 states and many foreign countries, and when they graduate they go to all different areas around the world."

Long said a PA program would help prepare students for lives of service, which fits well with the university's mission.

"We don't anticipate the program becoming huge. We are shooting for quality over quantity," Long said. "We have an excellent health care tradition at Harding in the College of Nursing, the College of Sciences and the pre-med program. If this program becomes a reality, it will be another piece in that puzzle."

Show promises to be challenging, entertaining

**MEGHAN MICHAELSON**

Copy editor

With Spring Sing opening in three weeks, directors, performers and building crews are scrambling to get everything ready in time for the annual production.

Dr. Steve Frye, who has directed Spring Sing for 10 years, said he is all too familiar with the crunch time before the production, which drew more than 12,600 spectators last year.

I have a name for [each of] the last three weeks before Spring Sing," Frye said. "The first week is the 'Oh My Goodness Week,' when everyone realizes that the show is really going to happen. The next week is 'Oh Blood, Sweat and Tears Week.' The last week is 'Miracle Week,' because it takes a miracle to pull it off. But we do it every year."

As the show approaches, freshman Natalie Fry, who is participating as a friend of Zeta Bho, said she related to Frye's observations.

"I feel like my life is 'my goodness' right now," she said. "It's been like 'oh my goodness, we have three weeks left' and 'oh my goodness, I have practice tonight, and tomorrow night, and the night after that.'"

King said while she feels ready to perform, she knows there are still a few kinks to work out.

"We're working on transitioning between songs," King said.

Another person feeling the rush of Spring Sing preparations is sophomore Katie Vancil, a member of the building crew for the set. Vancil said parts of the stage still need to be built and painted.

She said the design of the stage made it challenging to build.

"There are different levels and little circular platforms," Vancil said. "The platforms are the most difficult because you have to do it entirely by eye. When you cut the plywood with the jigsaw, you have to take it onto the set to see if it looks right. If it doesn't, you have to cut the wood some more."

Frye said the asymmetrical set design is a first for the show and has created new challenges for the performers.

"They couldn't use the straight lines and rows they have in previous years because [the row] just don't look good," Frye said. "[The stage design] made things more difficult for the clubs, but they are adapting very well."

Despite hours of "oh my goodness" filling the Spring Sing air, Frye said the show's progress was "right on track."

"I'm not panicked yet," he said. "But that makes me wonder if I should be."

Although the show does not officially open until April 9, a special benefit performance will allow a sneak peak April 6. Proceeds from the 7 p.m. show will be given to the international campaign fund. Tickets are $22.
OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

ACU students close four campus in Madrid attacks

Four Abilene Christian University students witnessed firsthand the effects of the March 11 terrorist bombings in Madrid, Spain.

Sophomores Elizabeth Cananisky, Katie Noah, Marcela Guiterrez and Jenny Tlalii, who are studying at ACU's international campus in Oxford, England, this semester, had traveled to Spain for a 10-day vacation.

On March 11, the women boarded a train headed for Madrid around 6:45 a.m. The trip, which should have taken almost four hours, ended abruptly when 10 bombs exploded between 7:30 a.m. and 7:43 a.m. in Madrid train stations, killing more than 200 people and injuring around 1,600.

Munition shell discovered in Kensett

Two men unearthed a mortar shell Monday while tearing down a building in a residential neighborhood in Kensett.

Kensett Police Chief Chuck Yaeger said the two-foot-long rusty shell was wrapped in a cloth and lying under a floor in the building. Yaeger, who believed the shell might be dangerous, called Sheriff Pat Garrett.

After inspecting the shell, Garrett determined it was a mast mortar that a National Guardian probably took as a souvenir years ago. After transporting the mortar to the Sheriff's department, Garrett contacted the U.S. Department of Defense.

Sue1 claims gay ban 'unconstitutional'

A lawsuit filed in 1990 that challenges a ban on homosexuals serving as Arkansas foster parents went before a judge Tuesday.

The four Arkansas plaintiffs, three of which are homosexual, say the state's Child Welfare Agency Review Board follows an unconstitutional policy that prohibits practicing homosexuals from becoming foster parents.

Representing the plaintiffs are lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union who will try to discredit the idea that homosexual parents can harm a child's development.

According to the Human Services Department, there are 960 foster homes and about 3,321 foster children in Arkansas.

Gas prices reach all-time highs

U.S. average retail gasoline prices reached record highs Tuesday, according to the American Automobile Association.

The AAA's survey of 60,000 stations across the country showed the national average price of gasoline was $1.739, an increase of a tenth of a cent from the previous record set last summer. Arkansans were paying an average of $1.690 at the pump on Tuesday.

The AAA attributes the high prices to rising demands, decreased supplies and stricter OPEC policies. The U.S. government predicted Monday that average gasoline prices would reach as high as $1.831 per gallon in April and May.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Jessica Terry, Freshman

Hometown: Tampa, Fl.

Major: undecided

Identical Twin: Freshman, Destina Terry

Favorite movie: "Forest Gump"

Favorite month: "July because the 4th of July is my favorite holiday. We always go off fireworks on the beach."

Hobby: Photography - mostly portraits and candid shots.

Favorite Snack: Starburst and Sebe.

Favorite cafeteria food: Chicken strips

Favorite Seany restaurant: Calton's Steakhouse & Grill

Favorite superhero: "Batman. He was always my dad's favorite, so I just grew to like him too."

COMING UP

SAC Spades tournament, student center, 7 p.m.

Liacrosse vs. Southeastern University, Arlington, Texas, 1 p.m.

Baseball vs. Southern Arkansas, Magnolia, Ark., 1 p.m.

Liacrosse vs. University of Texas, Arlington, Texas, noon.

Men's open house, 6:30-8:15 p.m.

Baseball vs. Southern Arkansas, Magnolia, Ark., 1 p.m.

Baseball vs. Central Baptist, Conway, Ark., 1 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. Southern Arkansas, home, 2 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. University of Central Arkansas, home, 2 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. Southeastern Oklahoma, Ada, Okla., 2 p.m.

"The Princess Bride," Frontier, 8 p.m.

"Men's tennis vs. East Central Oklahoma, Ada, Okla., 10 a.m.

Baseball vs. Delta State, home, 12 p.m.

Baseball vs. Delta State, home, 2 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time, Spring ahead.

Tenis vs. Dallas Baptist, home, 1 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. Henderson State, Arkadelphia, Ark., 1 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkadelphia, Ark., 3:30 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. Arkansas Tech University, home, 2 p.m.
Campus loses a legend

Lott Tucker Jr., 76, died March 7.

SARA VAN WINKLE
Student reporter

Fair, remarkable and efficient are just a few of words used to describe Lott R. Tucker Jr. who died March 7 at age 76 from complications of a stroke.

Tucker, who worked at Harding more than 50 years, served in numerous capacities, including senior vice president from 1996 until the time of his death.

"He stood out as a person that, if he said he would do something, you just never gave it another thought: it would be done," said David Burks.

Along with his roles at Harding, Tucker committed himself to helping improve Searcy by serving on various local boards and organizations, including the Searcy Chamber of Commerce. The son of Tucker's second-floor office in the American Heritage Building was adorned with awards from various civic organizations in recognition of his contributions, and in 1998 Tucker was presented with a key to the city in honor of his service.

"He viewed himself as a resident of Searcy who worked for Harding University," Burks said. "He loved this city and gave much of his life and energies to make it a better place for all of us to live.

Tucker also served on the Arkansas Student Loan Authority.

"One thing that made him sad was when he didn't help a student financially," said LaTynia Dykes, Tucker's secretary.

"He was always the second mile. He was empathetic to everybody. He wanted to help.

Dykes and Tucker worked together for more than 40 years.

"I think it's a record," Dykes said. "We didn't know what to do with or without each other. We made a good team.

Liz Howell, director of alumni relations, and her husband Charlie, knew Tucker from when they were students at Harding about 30 years ago.

"We met left Searcy in 1977 but returned in 1987 where Tucker hired Charlie Howell to operate the university's bowling alley.

"Every big event that has happened in any family's lives since we moved here, we credit him to the opportunity Mr. Tucker gave us to move back here," said Liz Howell.

"Even though the Harding community will miss Tucker, Liz Howell said those who knew him were content knowing he lived his life serving the Lord.

"He was a pillar of the community and a pillar at Harding University," she said. "Those who knew him loved him. He was easy to love. It's hard not to be sad [that he's gone], but we can be glad knowing he had victory in Jesus."
Trumpeter performs live history

ASHLEY KELLMAN - Staff Writer

Attending the March 23 performance of trumpeter Christian Steele-Perkins was like traveling in a musical time machine for some audience members.

Using an array of antique trumpets from previous centuries, Steele-Perkins led the audience on a journey through the instrument's historical development from its earliest form to modern day.

For some pieces, Steele-Perkins used the original instrument of the period to play music by composers like Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart.

"It was sort of a history lesson," freshman Ashley Coller said.

"The journey through the trumpet's development included playing an animal horn from the 16th century. After the performance, some audience members were allowed to play various instruments.

Steele-Perkins is regarded as one of the most highly esteemed trumpet players in the world. A 1993 "Concert" magazine said Steele-Perkins is "considered to be the world's leading player of the Baroque trumpet."

Dr. Cindy Carrell, adjunct in the music department, said she was happy Steele-Perkins agreed to perform in Harding's Classical Lyceum Series.

"He has performed with everyone who is anybody in historical musical performances," Carrell said. "He is an incredible musician and quite really funny entertainer."

During the first 20 years of his career, Steele-Perkins played British symphonic music in London. In London, he also recorded music for films like "James Bond," "Jaws," "Gladiator" and "Batman" and for TV shows like "The Antiques Roadshow," "Highway" and "Dr. Who."

He has performed with the world-renowned trumpet ensemble for 12 years and is known for his strong stage presence while introducing the music and explaining his array of trumpets.

"He was very down to earth," freshman Pamela Schubert said. "I guess I expected him to be unapproachable, but he was the opposite. You knew that he was very knowledgeable, but he didn't make you feel dumb for not knowing the information."
Christian music has been rapidly rising in popularity and experiencing explosive growth over the past several years. Christian concerts, as well, have gained the same notoriety with groups playing to large audiences across the country.

We feel that it is time that Searcy uses its resources and facilities to bring live Christian music to this area. A committee has formed of interested members of the community who share this vision and are passionate about seeing it come to fruition.

The first concert has already been booked for Friday, April 2, 2004, featuring FFH, one of the hottest Christian groups in the country. They have 6 number one hits and their most recent CD, Ready to Fly. The album soared to the top of the charts only a few weeks after its release. You can find more information about them at their Web site www.ffhnet. Appearing with them will be Big Daddy Weave, a new and up-and-coming group, and solo artist Warren Barfield.

Where: Searcy Outdoor Event Center
When: April 2, 2004 7 p.m.
Tickets: $10 in advance: $15 at the gate
Ticket Outlets: Carmichael Center. 279.1010
Bible House: 268.9885
Quartetbeam Music: 268.6694
-Bring blankets and lawn chairs-

We hope that the people of this area will share the same excitement that we have about bringing Christian music to Searcy. Our goal is to make this an annual or biannual event so that the people of this area can know the tremendous blessing that God can bring through Christian music.

Searcy Christian Concert Committee

MARY CATHERINE CLARK

FAST-PACED HEALTHY

- Hamburgers have more saturated fat than chicken or fish.
- Salads provide many nutrients and can replace a meal. Water instead of soda is cheaper and healthier.
- Bigger isn’t always better when it comes to meal sizes.
- Splitting a meal with a friend reduces calorie intake.

Heathy Living

We may not stay up with you all night, but we’ll help you through it.

MEN’S OP. HOUSE

Sunday, March 28
6:30 - 8:15 p.m.

We will admit, every once in a while we all get tired of eating in the cafeteria or student center, and not all of us can make our own meals. It is so easy just to run to the nearest fast-food restaurant and get a filling and delicious meal for a little money.

In fact, many students believe they could save money by eating out all the time instead of purchasing a meal ticket. While this may be true at times, we often sacrifice nutrition for what we gain in cost-effectiveness and speed.

Obviously, fast-food eating cannot be avoided, so here are a few suggestions for the next time you are on the go:

- Chicken or Beef?

The American Heart Association says that a diet high in saturated fat leads to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, clogged arteries and eventual heart disease. If you are like me, this does not sound too appealing.

Red meat found in hamburgers is high in saturated fat than poultry or fish, so it stands to reason that a diet of strictly hamburger and steak does not bode well for heart health. However, this does not mean to avoid all red meat because it serves as an important source of vitamin B12.

Grilled chicken (not fried) is usually a healthy alternative to hamburgers most thanks to it is smothered in cheese and bacon, so give it a try. Keep in mind that a normal meat portion is about three to four ounces (or the size of your palm) don’t over do it. And just because you ordered chicken doesn’t mean you shouldn’t enjoy every bite when you order your combo meal. (Oops! Did I say combo? More on that later.)

- Salad...as my meal?

Sure! Salads can be a great alternative to sandwich, especially if they provide many vitamins and minerals in their yummy veggies without adding many calories or fat grams. They may be a little more expensive than their burger counterparts, but believe me; they are worth it in the long run. I am sure you have noticed the low-carb craze going around, and this has influenced restaurant chains in improving their salads. Instead of just having one type of garden salad, many fast-food eateries have multiple grilled chicken salads, steak salads or mixed green salads that are quite tasty!

- Pizza anyone?

OK, I know that pizza is a favorite of many students, but there are not too many ways to make a pizza healthy. However, instead of getting a supreme meat lover’s artery clogging cheese loaded-pie of death, why not give the grilled chicken pizza a try? Many restaurant are even making “light” pizzas made with lower fat cheese, thin crust and vegetables that can be a great alternative to deep-dish style.

- Wrap it up?

Many sandwich shops around town are featuring new wraps that are low-carb friendly. Whether or not you buy into the low-carb fad, they do have the potential to be low cholesterol. I say potential because any wrap or sandwich that has the word “meat” or features more than two kinds of meat or cheese is probably not going to be that low in calories. Try requesting a low fat sandwich wrapped in pita bread or a tortilla. This can be a great choice for anyone who wants to fill up on good stuff instead of bread.

Obviously, eating out often is probably not the best choice for good nutrition, but wise choices can be made. Here are a few more tips:

Choose water instead of a soft drink – it is cheaper and better for you.

Don’t fall for gimmicks. Just because an item may be low fat does not mean it is low calorie, and neither does the claim that reduced carbohydrates mean it is low in fat. Split a meal with a friend. There is nothing wrong with eating out often, and going out with friends is part of the fun of college life.

As with any area of life, moderation is the key. While it is not healthy to stuff just anything in your face, it is also not healthy to stress out about what you eat. Now about those combo meals; it is fine to snack off and get those fries once in a while. Since most college students are in the earlier years of life, their metabolisms haven’t slowed down. As long as we remain moderately active by exercising a minimum of three times per week, what we eat shouldn’t dictate every life decision.

However, making good decisions about what to put into bodies now may dictate the measure of health we enjoy in years to come.
Spring invites students to fish for outdoor entertainment

DEANN THOMAS
Managing editor

Whether floating in a canoe lazily downstream, gathering around campfires on backpacking trips or heading to the hills for some mountain climbing, Harding students have discovered attending college in the ‘Natural State’ gives them many opportunities to explore nature, especially during the springtime.

Junior Dan Phillips is one of many students who take advantage of Arkansas’ environment to participate in multiple outdoor activities. Phillips, an avid fisherman, enjoys spending time at Hurricane Lake Refuge near Bald Knob, which is less than 15 miles from Searcy. The refuge boasts great carp fishing, but Phillips has not had much luck catching other types of fish at the site.

“Hurricane Lake Refuge is a hidden gem. You might not know it’s there, but it’s a great place to fish, which is nice because you don't have to travel far,” Phillips said. Phillips plows to try trout fishing on the Little Red River, which flows through Pangburn and Heber Springs, where a Heber Springs resident caught the world’s largest German brown trout in 1992.

“I haven’t caught any bass out there yet, but that’s not stopping me from trying,” Phillips said.

In the future, Phillips plans to try trout fishing on the Little Red River, which flows through Pangburn and Heber Springs, where a Heber Springs resident caught the world’s largest German brown trout in 1992.

“I haven’t caught any bass out there yet, but that’s not stopping me from trying,” Phillips said. Phillips plans to try trout fishing on the Little Red River, which flows through Pangburn and Heber Springs, where a Heber Springs resident caught the world’s largest German brown trout in 1992.

“The kind of fishing I do is a lot like a chess match,” Phillips said. “I like tricking fish into thinking a piece of plastic is something to eat.”

Some students also rush to Arkansas’ waterways for canoeing or kayaking. Junior Stephen Leewing said he spent last spring on the Caddo River, which flows near Arkadelphia, approximately 110 miles southwest of Searcy. Leewing said his first experience with canoeing produced a lot of laughs.

“It was funny because we kept falling out of our canoes,” he said. “The water wasn’t too deep, so it wasn’t too bad.”

In addition to the rivers, nearby mountains provide opportunities for outdoor adventures, like hiking, backpacking and camping. Senior Brian Newberry said he likes the peace and solitude of being away from large groups of people while backpacking at Richard Creek near Russellville.

“Richard Creek is so remote that not too many people go out there,” Newberry said. “I’ve been out there three or four times, and I’ve never crossed anyone’s path.”

Even rain doesn’t hamper the trail’s appeal because it produces waterfalls that add to an already beautiful setting.

Newberry said. He and his friends like to pack enough food and supplies for two-night stays at the site where they can hike during the day and relax around a campfire at night.

Gathering around a campfire also creates unique opportunities to build relationships with friends and tune in to God’s creation, junior Taylor Plott said. Plott, an Eagle Scout, has camped at Petit Jean State Park in Morrilton, approximately 70 miles west of Searcy, and at Blanchard Springs near Mountain View, approximately 80 miles north of Searcy.

“My favorite activity while camping is fire-building,” Plott said. “I love the construction of the fire. There’s something intimately abut building something from nothing, and I like that.”

Plott recommends camping in Mountain View to take advantage of the wooded area and the nearby hiking trails in the mountains.

The mountains in this region can also be a retreat for students who enjoy rock climbing and rappelling. Sugar Leaf Mountain, located in Heber Springs, is a nearby option for rappelling, but those interested in mountain climbing might prefer Sam’s Throne or Horsehoe Canyon Ranch in deeper, even though the sites are about 160 miles from Searcy.

While senior Chad Miller recommends the new trend of indoor rock-climbing gyms for beginning climbers, he prefers the thrill of climbing real mountains.

“Indoor climbing is safer and gives climbers the opportunity to develop skills and build strength,” Miller said. “It’s nowhere near as exciting as climbing real mountains.”

“Indoor climbing may be more convenient and safer, but you don’t get the thrill of the outdoors... seeing the amazing cliffs with such great views... feeling the real rocks,” Miller said.

For more information on outdoor opportunities in the state, visit www.arkansas.com/outdoors.
Local ‘unknown’ restaurants serve dining alternatives to students

Grandpa’s Bar-B-Que, Georgetown One Stop provide breaks from old familiars

My ‘Sportscenter’ begins in 3, 2, 1

R

eat reality television continues to transport viewers into the “real” lives of others. So, does it do that for us, too? Or, do we use the thought of a critique in Stacy Schot’s graphic design class or the thought of these judges, as they read it. I would voluntarily take my character in the harsh serfdom of Joffrey Baratheon, but with, however, encounter critics along my journey for a job. They may comment on the success of their criticisms, and my blog falls into the classifieds. It stands as one, such as assassins and rock stars, that children dream about at night. I have seen designs of formatting pages for “Sports Illustrated” or working on the stars that make this game. Jack Johnson’s debut album has been turning my dreams into reality, as a season, I dream of my future. I wake contestants chase their dreams. In May, I will borrow a line from a scene in front of Stuart Scott and say, “hugs and hand shakes,” capture the Harding headline and enter the working world. Watching “Dream Job” allows me to consider my middle school after graduation. Now is the time to begin turning my dreams into reality. To many, contestants prepare material each week to showcase their skills. Their material may be good standing alone, but the real game begins as the neural network against another. In searching for a job, I know can never be too prepared. I need to continually update my skills and never stop learning. Each week, contestants place themselves in front of a panel of four judges and the audience. The thought of having [Jack Johnson’s] critique my work would leave me sleepless at night. Critics will still follow me as I become a player in the competitive job arena. Despite my preoccupation with perfection, I will never become the boss of my life. I dare to learn to accept “constructive” criticism.
First-time laundry lessons

Cooperation, quarters, time are three washing necessities

This semester has brought many new changes into my life. In fact, I sometimes feel like I'm experiencing my freshman year all over again.

As a freshman, I have always gone home to do my laundry even though I live on campus. However, two days before school started this semester, the septic tank in our house overflowed into the basement. We promptly moved out, Iinto my dorm room and my family into a friend's house, because we could not use the water anymore for fear of another catastrophe. I didn't really think anything of it at the time. I figured that I would be able to come back within a few days to wash my laundry when the tank was fixed.

To this date, the septic tank is still being worked on. Actually, we are not so much working on it as we are trying to find it. Yes, it is lost but, hopefully, the men who professionally "look" for septic tanks will find it soon.

After accumulating dirty laundry for a while, I did something that I had never done before. I went to the Laundromat by Sears Hall and washed six loads of laundry. I washed almost everything that I owned: sheets, towels, jeans, shirts, etc.

During this process, I observed some basic unspoken rules about the Laundromat and the whole process in general that most people know already.

1. **Find an afternoon or night when you don't have anything else to do.**

   I succeeded in finding a time slot on a Monday night, which usually isn't a good time for me. Next time, I am probably going to just schedule it a week ahead in my planner!

2. **Laundry isn't free.**

   I realized that I couldn't just go and wash my laundry. In order to get something, I had to give. (A universal rule that applies to everything, I guess.) I needed quarters. I didn't know there were dollar-changers in the Laundromat, so I immediately went to the first place I could think of that was open on Monday night. A gas station.

   The cashier must have thought I was crazy when I asked her for $10 worth of quarters. She ended up not having enough, so I went to another gas station. She wasn't able to give me any quarters either. I probably spent 30 minutes driving around, looking for quarters. I went to one more gas station. I think this lady must have thought I was completely weird when I asked for $10 dollars worth of quarters and handed her a $20 bill. I was almost afraid she was going to call the police and make sure my bill wasn't counterfeit because of the way she looked at the money and me.

3. **Bring something to do while you wait.**

   On time yourself while you're gone, out of courtesy for others washing clothes.

   I put all my clothes in six different washing machines. By the time I finished putting my last pile in, the first one had only about 5-10 minutes left, so I waited a bit, then started the cycle over again in the dryers. It's a great time to do homework or visit friends. I had a good time doing both. It almost makes me want to go back more often.

One of the issues that people had in the laundry room is "laundry-room etiquette." I have many friends who complain about leaving the Laundromat and coming back to their clothes being stewed throughout the facility. However, I've read about an unspoken "10-minute rule" that allows people to move laundry if they need to use the machines. So I can see both sides of the issue. If someone has to move another person's laundry, he or she should be careful about not putting it on the floor or anywhere else it will get dirty again. This is just a basic rule of consideration.

I came to realize that although washing clothes in the Laundromat is a chaotic, long process, it probably takes less time than washing at home, and time is very valuable to me.
Tainted media struggles

Fabrication and lies are not journalistic principles

It was a dark week in the world of journalism.

Jack Kelley, a once respected USA Today reporter and Pulitzer Prize nominee, was accused of fabricating stories and sources, plagiarizing information, and lying to his editors. It took two full pages of its March 19 issue for the nation’s largest newspaper to untangle the web of lies that Kelley wove as star reporter. According to the apologetic newspaper article, Kelley’s “journalistic sins were sweeping and substantial.” But that’s just the half of it.

Kelley’s misdeeds harmed more than Kelley’s reputation of a proud newspaper; they fractured the delicate trust that balanced one of America’s most important institutions.

American journalism was born from rights “we the people” gave it in the First Amendment. The entire process was concocted with a unique formula—the people give broad freedoms to the press, and the press, in turn, respects and serves the people.

Lately, however, news media seem to be doing a poor job of handling their part of the bargain. Journalists like Kelley and Jayson Blair, a New York Times reporter who was fired in May for plagiarizing and mispronouncing the name Arkansas, forbids a man to any salon because if you were to continue to distort their surroundings regardless of a few bed seeds in the profession.

In an age when “journalistic integrity” seems to be an oxymoron, it is difficult not to harbor a deep distrust for the nation’s news media.

But the Bison does not encourage people to combat news media with skepticism and cynicism. That is not the way to correct the problem.

Instead, we encourage people to educate themselves on the issues of the day so they can become willing and able participants in the process. Truth has no greater guardian than knowledge, and we encourage readers to be prepared to hold news media accountable for their actions.

TALK BACK

Will you file federal income taxes this year?

"No, I don’t know how." "Yes, I expect to get some extra cash back."

"Yes, but I won’t have to pay anything or get anything back. Once I overpaid my taxes by $20.17, and the state just paid $8.57 to send it back to me."
Following the first week of the NCAA tournament, I'm still pretty content with my brackets. I managed to retain 3/4 of my Final Four, but 1/2 of my champion.

What was I thinking picking Mississippi State to make the finals? As long as Oklahoma State survives in addition to retaining a sure march madness, I spent some break visiting three Major League Baseball Grapefruit League Spring Training sites.

The Atlanta Braves' Cracker Jack Stadium in Orlando and the New York Yankees' Legends Field in Tampa are two of the more notable facilities in spring baseball. While not as aesthetically pleasing, Cleveland's Chain of Lakes Park in Winter Haven, Fla., provides fans sitting in the berm in left field the chance to experience what watching baseball in the 1930's must have been like.

After getting an early dose of baseball, I can honestly say I'm ready for the regular season to begin once the Yankees and Devil Rays invade Japan on Tuesday. Therefore, I thought I'd provide a simple explanation of how I believe the 2004 season will play out.

In will be the most publicized divisional race, the New York Yankees should slip by the Boston Red Sox to take the American League East. The Yankees pitching staff is not held to the same problems as the last year's version that won the American League pennant. The 'evil empire,' as Boston is known, is not as hot as last year.

Young Javy Lopez would be counted on to help out on offense. He'll quickly become one of the key players in the AL East.

Despite the Yankees shortcomings on the mound, you can't deny their strong lineup. George Steinbrenner will most likely procure a stronger second baseman before the seasons end in order to strengthen what seems to be New Yorkers only offensive weak link.

The Red Sox, it won't be a matter of not winning, but simply keeping up. They do still possess my AL MVP pick, Nomar Garciaparra. His strong lineup on the Red Sox (David Ortiz, Bill Mueller and Kevin Millar) experienced career years in 2003 and won't provide the same offensive numbers this season.

My AL Cy Young pick Pedro Martinez. Curt Schilling and depth in the bullpen should secure the Wild Card for Boston.

Baltimore should be much improved, but still won't compete with New York and Boston. Toronto will also have a good year, but I think the young Blue Jays are still a couple of years away from really competing. In the AL Central, I think Kansas City will do well this season that will most likely lead to a division.

The Royals were able to fill some offensive holes and the young players now know what it's like to be successful.

Chicago's two-year reign over this division is over. After losing Eric Milton, LaTroy Hawkins and Eddie Guardado, the Twins just don't have enough strong pitching to keep the streak alive.

In the West, I think the Angels' halo will shine brighter in 2004. Outfielders Vladimir Guerrero and Jason Giambi will just control An- derson in what I think is MLB's strongest outfield.

The lineup is potent, and with Bartolo Colon joining the pitching staff, I think Anaheim is the team to beat in the American League.

Looking at the National League East, I think the only team who will make the playoffs will be the Braves. The Mets do not look like a team to be feared.

Sure, they lost a lot of home runs and insurance policy living David Larrissy, Gary Sheffield, Vinny Castillo and Bobby Picck left town. And maybe they did lose one of the best pitchers ever in Greg Maddux. But Bobby Cox is still Atlanta's manager.

The young players like Johnny Estrada and Adam LaRoche will contribute mightily. Therefore, I think they'll find a way to win. In October, I think we'll all be scratching our heads wondering why they're in the playoffs for the 18th straight year.

I believe Philadelphia, despite the strong pitching, will rely too heavily on Jim Thome's bat.

Thome will hit 50 home runs in 2004, but I don't think other hitters like Pat Burrell can ever compete with Thome in providing power numbers in that line-up.

The Marlins will not repeat in 2004.

They will benefit from pitcher A.J. Burnett's return from Tommy John surgery to the rotation. My one championship game.

In spring baseball, I think Len Houston's rotation of Roy Oswalt, Andy Pettitte, Roger Clemens and Wade Miller will battle Chicago's rotation of my NL Cy Young pick Mark Prior, Kenny Rogers, Carlos Zambrano, Mark Prior and Matt Clement.

In the end, I think the Astros will slightly edge the Cubs for the division title. St. Louis has my NL MVP Albert Pujols, but I think they are stuck in third.

The West, my dark horse candidate for this season is the San Diego Padres. I think they have enough strong hitters in their line-up to be competitive and they will count on their young pitching staff to reach their potential this season.

The addition of David Wells and the return of closer Trevor Hoffman from injury make the Padres very dangerous on the mound.

The playoffs will see New York versus Kansas City and Anaheim over Boston in the American League Divisional Series. Again the National League, Houston will take Atlanta and Chicago will knock out San Diego.

The AL Championship series will go seven games with Anaheim making their second World Series trip in three years. The NLCS will also go seven games with Houston slipping to the Cubs. The World Series drought will continue for Chicago.

In the World Series, I like the Angels over the Astros as well in seven games.

With all the talk of the Yankees, Anaheim has slipped through the cracks. I think they're the most dangerous team in Major League Baseball.

Sorry to A-Rod and the Cubs, no championship this year!
EMILY B. WADE
Student reporter

With a month of spring training under their belts, the Bison football team is preparing to conclude its off-season preparation with its annual intra-squad Black and Gold game Saturday at First Security Stadium.

The game will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Head coach Randy Tribble said the match-up would not be the first-time offense versus first-time defense, but would feature a mixture of first and second team players on both squads.

"It's going to be a controlled scrimmage with a limited kicking game," Tribble said. "We're going to try to give everyone some reps, but if it's going to be competitive at the same time. We want to give the new guys a chance to claim the top ten spot and see how they perform."

The Bisons had their first official practice Feb. 26. The weeks have been spent working on the fundamentals through drills, plays and scrimmages.

Tribble is pleased with the effort the team has put forth in the off-season.

"The spring has been real productive," Tribble said. "We've had a lot of really good days and really good competition. The guys have been working hard in winter training to prepare for the spring. Some days the offense had the upper hand, but then other days the defense had the upper hand in practice."

Tribble said he could not place too much emphasis on individual performances this spring, but praised the returning players for their leadership.

"The older guys have performed as we expected," Tribble said. "We just want to take the steps to just get better every day in every position as a team."

Offensively, junior quarterback Adam Lybrand felt strong competition for the starting role from sophomore Cam Rowan and redshirt freshman David Knighton, younger brother of junior defensive back Robert Knighton.

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"It's competitive, but we are friendly towards each other," Lybrand said. "In my mind, the only thing that separates us in level of experience.""Tribble said he wasn't worried about starting roles this spring. "Adam is in the experience edge," Tribble said. "But, we're really glad we've got two or three guys that are good college quarterbacks."

Lybrand started seven games for the Bisons last season, throwing for 2,079 yards with 12 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. Bisons made just one appearance for the Bisons in 2003, completing three of four passes for 64 yards and one touchdown in a loss to Delta State.

The Bisons offense added two transfers in the off-season who have practiced with the team this spring, junior running back Blake Smith, from Vermillion College in Ely, Minn., and sophomore linebacker Kenneth Collins from Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas. Collins said he has found some major differences between the two programs.

"I came to Harding because of the coaching staff, players and the campus," Collins said. "However, the transition from Kilgore to Harding has been drastic because at Kilgore the coaches didn't care what we did off the field. Harding makes you practice discipline in all aspects." Collins has also noticed some differences in the three months he has been here.

"It's a good atmosphere," Smith said. "Everybody tries to get better each day, and it's not just for themselves, but for the team. That's going to help us put wind on the board." Collins has looked to senior linebackers Tank Dennis, Scott Dutile and Troy Finley, sophomore linebacker Justin Currie and sophomore defensive back Robert Towns for leadership.

Dennis, a first-team All-Gulf South Conference selection in 2003, was second on the team in tackles last season with 69 behind departed senior Tim Polk.

Defensively, the Bisons will look to junior linebackers Tunk Dennis, Scott Dutile and Troy Finley, sophomore linebacker Justin Currie and sophomore defensive back Robert Towns for leadership.

"They're stepping into the holes left from the graduating seniors. We're starting to see a team form this spring." Tribble said the Bisons haven't returned from the spring season yet, but the team has planned to work on both sides of the ball.

"We're focusing on both defense and offense. We have a lot of new guys," Tribble said. "We just have to start teaching our system, and hope they catch on."
War against steroids extends to HU athletics

MATT PRICE
Sports editor

The suspected use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs by professional athletes has received full-scale national attention.

In a meeting with the commissioners and union representatives of all professional sports leagues, a government-appointed committee demanded Major League Baseball enforce a stricter drug-testing process and penalties for drug users.

Government authorities, including President George W. Bush, fear that professional athletes who use steroids will influence younger players to enhance their bodies with the same hormones.

According to the Merk Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, the reported rate of steroid use among United States high school students has increased to an all-time high of 6 to 11 percent.

Steroid use among college athletes, however, has dropped to 15 percent, according to a survey performed by the University of Louisville.

The Harding Athletic Department is pleased that those numbers do not include its athletes.

"As far as I know, no Harding athlete has ever tested positive for illegal substances," Lady Bison basketball head coach Brad Francis said. "Francis also serves as Harding's Compliance Coordinator with the NCAA."

Francis said there is a compliance difference between Division-I and II, in that Div.-I tests more sports.

In Division-II, the NCAA tests schools at random in football, track and field, beginning in 2003.

In every other sport, teams could be tested for drugs at the National Championship.

Before their respective seasons, student-athletes are given a list of drugs that are deemed illegal by the NCAA. The list contains more than 90 banned substances, including stimulants, anabolic agents, diuretics, street drugs and peptide hormones and analogues.

Student-athletes who test positive for drug use face stiff penalties handed down by the NCAA, including being banned from competition.

In addition to the NCAA rules, Harding requires student-athletes to sign an agreement with the Athletic Department saying they would submit to a drug test if asked to do so.

White no Harding student-athlete has ever tested positive for illegal substances, Francis isn't sure how accessible they are to students.

"I wouldn't characterize them as being readily available," Francis said. "But the more strength-dependent your sport is, the more an athlete might try to use them."

Deidan Patton, a sophomore running back on the Bison football team, agrees that steroids aren't available to Harding athletes.

"I don't think [steroids] would be readily available to anyone who seeks it out," Patton said. "The good thing about college is that you have to seek it out because it's not something we can buy just off the street."

Bison soccer head coach Morgan Risner said it was possible to buy steroids. He said Harding should test baseball players.

"In my four years, I've never been tested," Trotter said. "I'd like to see Harding test more frequently."

If a Harding player wanted to get steroids, they could.

"Fullerton believes that if play­ers would be willing to pay what [steroids] would be readily available to anyone who seeks it out," Trotter said. "The good thing about college is that you have to seek it out because it's not something we can have just off the street."

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"The guys have some bad exam­ples ahead of them in the profes­sional level," Fullerton said.

Trotter agrees that college players learn from watching professional athletes.

"I think [steroids] has an influence on college players," Trotter said.

Frances said the university could make rules and enforce those handed down from the NCAA, but ultimately the responsibility to avoid steroids falls on the student-athlete.

"Athletes have to take the re­sponsibility to avoid them," Francis said. "I think we do a good job of informing the students of NCAA requirements. We do the best we can to make sure this isn't a problem, but our students are dealing with..."