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Africa bound

Seniors prepare to leave on mission trip to Kenya Dec. 28
KELLI OHRENBERGER
business manager

Christmas festivities and the usual American holiday traditions will be short-lived for six Harding seniors this year as they prepare to leave Dec. 28 for an eight-week mission trip to Africa.

Seniors Erika Ross, Rachel Cox, Karen Baur, Amanda Moore, Kriston Carroll and graduate student Alicia Bright will be departing from Harding to live in Sanga's, a remote village in Kenya, until August 2006.

The group will be teaching at the Marianna School, a primary school located in Sanga's. In addition, they plan to conduct youth rallies in the village's surrounding areas. The group is also planning to minister specifically to the local teenage girls.

"We really want to be youth ministers to those girls who don't have Christian influences in their lives," Baur said.

Cox said she hopes they will be able to influence the girls' behavior both during and after the mission trip.

"We hope to make a lasting impact on the teenage girls that are there, and that we can get them to understand the value of their lives," Cox said. "Even though this is only an eight-month trip, we want the effects to last long after we leave."

This six-member group was formed in November 2005 after some of the girls took a field trip with their Bible class. Cox, who lived in Africa for 14 years during her childhood, expressed a desire to return to this area.

"I want to go back because of the great need that they have there for teachers," Cox said.

While working in Sanga's, the team will not enjoy the luxuries of North American living. Three cement-floor houses are being built for the group to live in.

Though the houses will have basic kitchens, they will still have to do without some luxuries.

"We'll be roughing it compared to American standards," Baur said. "But I'm really looking forward to leaving behind all of the distractions we have here."

created in his image
Sophomore John Ross spreads red paint onto his canvas during the last Harding devotional of the semester in the McNeir Rotunda Dec. 6. Students watched as Ross created a painting of Jesus over the course of about 30 minutes.

England to speak at graduation ceremony Dec. 18
REBECCA KING
student reporter

A total of 278 students will graduate in a ceremony in the Benson Auditorium at 11 a.m. Dec. 28.

While sight of these students are only walking and still have some credence remaining, the rest have completed all the requirements for their degrees.

Compared to the May 2004 graduation of 326, there are 92 percent fewer students graduat­ ing this winter.

It is common for students to begin college in the fall and finish four years later in the spring; most winter graduations are generally lower in number.

For those who have graduated, the seniors will walk across the stage to receive their diploma and a handshake from President David Burka after hearing a speech from Dr. Don England, distinguished professor of chemistry.

Senior Tamika Burton, a communica­tion management major from Boston who will be graduating next week, said she transferred to Harding and has attended for two and a half years.

She said she will return to Massa­ chusetts and work as a sales manager in her family's real estate business.

"It's truly been an awesome experience because it's a Chris­ tian university," Burton said. "It's a very wholesome envi­ ronment. A good academic and spiritual life makes it a com­ plete package for Christians. You couldn't ask for anything more."

Senior Paul Cartwright of League City, Texas, is a youth and family ministry major who will work for a church in Pochon­ tas this spring after graduation. He has attended Harding for four and a half years.

"I've had a good experience," Cart­ wright said. "I've grown up a lot and en­ courage others to come to Harding."

For students already at Harding, Cartwright offers some practical ad­ vice as graduation approaches.

"Make sure you're ready when in­ terviewing for jobs," Cartwright said. "Learn patience; people don't always get back to you soon."

Senior Lindsey Harriman, an oral communications major from Seminole, Texas, has been at Harding four and a half years. She said she will be teaching theater at a high school in Wills Point, Texas, after graduation.

"Looking back, I wouldn't do anything differently," Harriman said. "My expe­ rience at Harding has molded me and shaped me spiritually and mentally. I have made lifetime friends. I have no regrets coming here."

Harriman said she also encourages current students to live for the moment, a thing sometimes difficult to do as attending college is planning for the future.

"Enjoy where you are now," Harriman said. "You'll realize soon you can't take naps at 2 p.m. in your dorm. You won't get a week for Thanksgiving or three weeks at Christmas. Live up the college life."
**OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE**

**Eiffel Tower gets temporary skating rink**

An ice skating rink opened today on a platform 57 meters (about 187 feet) above the ground on the Eiffel Tower. The 200-square-meter rink can hold up to about 80 people skating at one time, according to a Reuters report.

An ice skating rink had been added to the tower before in 1969, according to Isabelle Leuzinger, an eBay spokesman.

Motorola asked a materials company to develop a polymer that looks like plastic but breaks down into soil when discarded. Then, researchers at the University of Warwick in Britain helped develop a phone cover that contains a sunflower seed.

Spokesmen from Motorola said the company has not decided whether to introduce a model with the new plastic, and that it would take at least until the second quarter of 2005 to develop a commercial product.

**China prohibits Nike advertisement**

China banned the airing of a Nike commercial Monday, claiming it is an insult to national dignity. The commercial shows star basketball player LeBron James fighting a cartoon king fighting and includes two women in traditional Chinese attire and a pair of dragons.

The advertisement was pulled last month because of an indigent response from Chinese viewers, according to the State Administration for Radio, Film and Television's Web site.

The advertisement "violates regulations that mandate all advertisements in China should uphold national dignity and interest and respect the motherland's culture," the administration's site said. "It also goes against rules that require ads not to contain content that blasphemes national practice and cultures."

**Woman sells father's ghost on eBay**

An eBay buyer bid $85,100 Monday to purchase a ghost that an Indiana woman said was frightening her child.

The woman said her son believed his grandfather's ghost has been haunting their home. So, to relieve his fears, she placed an advertisement on eBay for the ghost and the grandfather owned with an explanation.

The sale garnered widespread media attention, that attracted 132 bids and various imitations.

"It can happen when items get listed on the site that get this kind of attention," said Han Duray, an eBay spokesman. "It becomes a pop culture phenomenon. It may be just a few days or whatever, but it's all everybody is talking about.

**FACES IN THE CROWD**

**Courtne Briston, sophomore**

Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.

Major: Elementary education

Favorite cafeteria food: "Those taquito things."

Football, baseball or basketball? Soccer

What is your favorite Christmas song? "I have to rephrase this. Felix Navidad" lately because it's so bouncy and fun."

Egg nog or apple cider? Apple cider

Christmas tradition: Decorating the Christmas tree.

If you could live in any decade, which would it be and why? The 80s because of the hair.

What excites you most about going to Greece in the spring? "Relating what we see [at HUG] to what we learn in our Bible classes."
Travel office open to HU community

BRE WOOD
student reporter

Harding students, faculty and staff now have the opportunity to book airline tickets and other travel plans from Harding's own travel agency, located in the basement of the Ewell building.

The full-service travel agency has access to all the major air lines, hotels, car rentals, cruise lines and tour companies, providing the community with numerous travel opportunities, according to Bill Spear, director of travel services.

Though the agency was created mainly to help book Harding's spring break campaigns, international campaigns, international programs and travel for Walton scholars, it is now available for faculty, staff and students.

"I hope I can serve Searcy by providing a good travel value and being a resource for travel information," Spear said.

Along came a spider

A spider web glazes the branches of a tree beside the Bison Auditorium on the morning of Dec. 6. Silk from spider webs is so strong that it can be stretched to four times its length before it breaks.

Group prepares for mission

The mission team will be able to speak English in the classrooms because the national language of Kenya is English. Although the children in the school speak some English, the country's spoken language is Kalenjin.

The team has been learning several practical words and phrases in Kalenjin so they can better interact with students and the community.

In addition to language preparation, the team has prepared for the mission in other ways since last November.

Each Wednesday, the group meets with Dr. Monte Cox, assistant professor of Bible and Rachel Cox's father, to have lessons on various aspects of living in Kenya, such as differences in culture and hygiene.

They have also met with Judith Crowson, wife of Marvin Crowson, missionary in residence, for team-building and trust exercises.

"We can never be completely prepared for what is going to happen to us, but we have been working to be as prepared as possible," Carroll said.

The group hopes its past mission experiences will aid them in this upcoming mission trip. Every team member has been to Africa at least once, and both Rachel Cox and Moore lived there for portions of their childhoods.

"Though the experience is different when you return as an adult, I think this group of girls is particularly suited for the challenge," Monte Cox said.

Carroll said she gained valuable insight and knowledge of the area by visiting Sang’alay this summer.

"Visiting the village gave me a chance to envision where I'm going to be," Carroll said. "The students and teachers all greeted me, and I saw how excited they were about us coming. It was very encouraging."

Along with helping the teenage girls and children, the group hopes to establish a tradition of Harding students providing missionary services in this village.

"We hope that after we leave other students will form teams and continue the work," Carroll said.

TAKE A PEEK.
www.harding.edu/thebison

Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season.

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NEWS

Sharing holiday spirit
Emphasis on giving during Christmas season

BETHANY YENKATESAN 

At Harding, giving is emphasized every season of the year. But as Christmas arrives, even more opportunities are given on campus and in the Seacrest community becomes available than during the rest of the year.

Campus Ministry is heading up two major service projects this season: Christmas for Kids and Friends' Christmas.

Christmas for Kids started a few years ago when Campus Ministry helped buy presents for a few families in need. This year, it has grown to include local children who will be receiving several presents and a wish lists through volunteers.

When we helped out those families, I thought, 'This is something nice that we can do for this year.' Angie English, secretary in Campus Ministry, said, "We never envisioned it being the size it is now."

Campus Ministry also joins forces with Delta Chi Delta every year for Friends' Christmas, a party thrown for children and their student big brothers and sisters who are involved with the Friends organization on campus.

The men of Delta Chi Delta buy and wrap Christmas presents for the kids.

Senior Aaron Landry, service director for Delta Chi Delta, said the club usually incorporates the project into their Christmas function.

"It's a great opportunity for us to help the kids out," Landry said. "It's always good to challenge the guys in the club to give."

Other social clubs are finding ways to serve as well.

Every Christmas season, Omega Psi takes on a project of gathering toys for mentally challenged students at the Sunshine School.

In addition, Phi Theta Phi and Knights team up to provide a few hours of childcare for children of Harding faculty and staff members.

Common names cause confusion

SUSANNA SMITH

If someone called out the name "Jessica" in a crowd of people, would they make out more than one person? Not necessarily.

That's how it is for those with multiple identical names. In the United States, 1 percent of the population. Role calls are filled with Josh, Chris, and Ashley.

And, it should not be a big surprise to hear the same name sometimes causes originality.

"I wish I had a more creative name," freshman Michael Wright said. "I had a friend back home that shared my name. I was more popular than him, so whenever anyone said, 'Michael,' they were usually calling me. I got kind of tired of it."

On Harding's campus, some students have to deal with more than one person with their names in class.

Sophomore Kari Khanna said he remembered thinking Dr. Milo Haulen had asked him a question one day in his Acts class.

"When he finished asking the question, I opened my mouth to answer only to hear ['Sophomore'] Brandon Johnson, seated directly behind me, answer it," Khanna said. "There are three Brandons in that class, and I felt pretty stupid."

For those with common names, mail mix-ups and wrong phone numbers, along with occasional slip ups in the registrar's office, are expected.

There's a certain teacher David Rese here," freshman David Reese said. "So all my classes got mixed up one time."

The student services staff said they understand the frustration.

"One year, we had five Jennifer Smiths," said Annette Davis, secretary in student services office. "When nombreandoseceived a call, she picked up one candy cane, "Rorsack said. "People have been so good that they've been returning the service director for Friends' Christmas, a party thrown for children and their student big brothers and sisters who are involved with the Friends organization on campus."

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Students search for methods to prevent holiday weight gain

JENN BONZAGNI and DEAN THOMAS

student reporter and managing editor

Glazed ham, roasted turkey, 22 different types of cookies, chocolate fudge, candy canes and hot cocoa.

For many, the Christmas season brings not only toys and gifts, but also unwanted pounds as everyone celebrates with holiday meals and sweets.

While there is no need to become a Scrooge and swear off Christmas cheer altogether, health officials say it is important to be health-conscious and have a plan before entering the holiday season.

The key to avoiding weight gain during the holiday season is moderation, according to officials.

The American Dietetic Association recommends sharing rich desserts, and eating lots of fruits, vegetables and other high-fiber foods before an event to avoid arriving hungry.

Also, Tom Venuto, bodybuilder, gym owner and author of "Burn the Fat, Feed the Muscle: Fat Burning Secrets of the World's Best Bodybuilders and Fitness Models," offers 10 ways to survive the holidays on his Web site at www.burnsthefat.com.

Venuto admits even bodybuilders enjoy holiday treats and emphasized the importance of planning a normal routine that includes some more relaxed days but maintains a healthy balance.

He said it is important that people do not give up if they break their routine but return to the routine as soon as possible.

As January approaches, losing weight and getting into shape tend to reenter the picture as people make New Year’s resolutions. Some options are available in Searcy to help students shed extra pounds and create a healthier lifestyle.

Beginning Jan. 18, a Weight Watchers program for students will be meeting on the Harding campus. The group will hold regular weekly meetings to set goals, discuss healthy eating, track weight loss and provide encouragement and accountability to members, according to Beverly Ford, secretary in the education office. Ford will be helping the group.

"We want to teach students how to eat properly and wisely to be fit. We want to attack all the problems related to unhealthy eating," said Kaye Morgan, director of scheduling.

In response to student inquiries, last semester Ford and others began exploring the idea of having Weight Watchers programs on campus. She said they decided to start with a program for faculty and staff to find out if the program would be feasible. Kaye Morgan, director of scheduling, has led the adult program since November and said she has been excited about the results.

"It has been very encouraging," Morgan said. "In the past six weeks, a group of 20-22 people have lost 135 pounds collectively, with individuals losing as much as 13 pounds. We’ve set realistic goals, and we think they’ve been met."

Because of the program’s success and interest shown by students, Morgan is going to lead similar meetings for students.

Since she has been planning for the class, Morgan has been eating in the cafeteria and working with Aramark officials to make sure students have options that will promote healthy eating. She said she has lost weight just following a diet in the cafeteria and that she is confident that students can benefit from the plans Weight Watchers offers.

"I think people can definitely lose weight; they just need to learn how. They also need the encouragement of others," said Morgan.

The program costs $38 for membership and $11 for each meeting. At least 15 students have to sign up in order for the program to get started. Anyone who is interested should contact Morgan at kmorgan2@harding.edu or ford@harding.edu.

In addition, female students looking for ways to get in shape have the option of attending a kick boxing class at the Fellowship Bible Church, 1921 W. Beebe Capps Expressway. The free class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at the church.

Junior Katy Menihan said for her, the class has been an ideal place to work out both physically and mentally.

"I really like it," Menihan said. "We work out in a Christian environment with Christian music and positive attitudes. We pray before and after we work out. After the session we have a cool down period where we stretch and listen to music and basically meditate. I always leave with a good, relaxed feeling."
Juniors Kyla and Kyla Kizer share friends, similar personalities; physical features and even side-by-side mailboxes.

Sophomores Ali and Katie White said the decision to come to Harding together was an easy one. They both joined the social club Ke Do Ke because they have the same friends.

Although they do look similar, Ali and Katie actually have different features. They said they really appreciate when people learn their names correctly, but if someone doesn’t, they will answer anyway.

“We don’t really like being called ‘the twins,’” Ali said. “We don’t think we look enough alike to be confused that often."

Although Ali and Katie said they are similar in that they are both fun loving, social and outgoing, they say they are opposite in several other areas.

“Katie’s more laid back, and I’m more stubborn and .organized,” Ali said, “She’s the nice one.”

Katie said they are mirror images because she is right-handed and Ali is left-handed.

“We’re the twins that don’t look alike,” Katie said. “It’s cool because we can be individuals; she’s just another one of my best friends.”

Your chances of having multiples increase if...

- You (the mother) are over age 45. The chances of having twins increases with age; 17 percent of mothers over the age of 45 give birth to twins. Becoming a mother after age 50 boosts your odds to nearly one in 1,000.
- You live in Massachusetts or Connecticut. A 1999 study found that rates in these states were at least 25 percent higher than the national rate.
- Your mother, or her mother’s mother is a fraternal twin. The chances may be high as one in 17 if the mother is a fraternal twin herself.
- You’ve already had one set of fraternal twins. These mothers’ chances of conceiving another set are four times greater than the average woman, or about one in 12.
- You’re Nigerian. This African country purportedly has the highest twinning rates in the world, estimated at one in 22. Some sources attribute it to their consumption of large quantities of yams.

Your chances of having multiples decrease if...

- You (the mother) are Hispanic or Asian. The 2001 study by the National Center for Health Statistics found that women of Hispanic origin were substantially less likely to have twins than white or black mothers in the same age group.
- You live in Hawaii. In a study that examined multiples born in the United States, this tropical state scored lowest, about 30 percent below the national average.
- You’re looking for identical multiples. The ratio for identical, or monzygotic, multiples is random and universal; it’s the same in all populations regardless of race, religion or other factors, and it has remained constant over time. The chance of having identical twins is about one in 285.

Information courtesy of multiples.about.com
Christmas comedy surprises with wit

PAYTON BARTEE student reporter

Will Ferrell is a funny, funny man. This is not an opinion; this is a fact. OK, it’s an opinion. His first starring vehicle, "Elf," showing in the Benson Auditorium at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, proves that he can make you laugh no matter how determined you are not to. He will win every time, so you might as well surrender now.

Thus, it is with great relief that I report to you that "Elf" is actually a movie that is more than worth your time. As what seemed to be the case with many viewers, I was a tad worried after seeing the previews. However, what the trailers didn’t catch, what no trailer ever really could, is Ferrell’s sheer embrasure and his overpowering child-like dedication to making the film work.

To see "Elf" is to watch a movie that shouldn’t be any good. On some level, you really should laugh better; you’re better than this. Smarter, maybe. But on another level, you’re laughing so hard, you can barely breathe. This would be the time and place to mention that, if Will Ferrell doesn’t necessarily do it for you, you probably dis-like this film.

Buddy, played with delight by Ferrell, is your basic fish-out-of-water type of fellow. Having snuck his way into Santa’s (Ed Asner) bag as a baby, Buddy is brought home to the North Pole and raised among the elves. He is, obviously, much larger than they are and a great deal more unskilled at making toys. He eventually realizes that he is actually a human. Before long, Buddy is headed to the far off land of New York City, determined to return to his family. Veteran James Caan plays Buddy’s real father, a childless executive unaware of his son’s existence.

If you’re thinking this sounds a bit formulaic, you’re probably right. The beauty of it, though, is in the details. Take the direction of long-time character actor Jon Favreau as Exhibit A. Ferrell wisely chose to avoid the modern technology and its detriments - the film absolutely duplicates radio and television in the opening scene for TNT's holiday special, "A Christmas Carol." Favreau is in the spirit of the season, but it is with great relief that I report to you that "Elf" is actually a movie that is more than worth your time.

However, the film absolutely works. Will Ferrell, a proven comic actor, who can get a laugh just by being on screen for the most part. You cannot duplicate his energetic, comedic spirit, and it is invaluable to Favreau and company. Ferrell gets annoying or filthy, yet he still manages to generate genuine smiles and laughter out of unsuspecting audiences. His is a rare talent these days, and such "Elf" might not be the greatest film ever made, it showed that Ferrell’s comedic range of his plays his cards right — will be much more successful than your typical SNL star gone Hollywood.

Three films will hit the Detroit Pistons—Saturday night at 7, and the Chicago Bulls—Wednesday night at 7. Tickets cost between $32 and $200. For more information, visit www.basketballreporter.com.

Memphis Grizzlies The Memphis Grizzlies will be in the Detroit Pistons—Saturday night at 7, and the Chicago Bulls—Wednesday night at 7. Tickets cost between $32 and $200. For more information, visit www.basketballreporter.com.

THEATER Will a Real Man Stand Up The creator of Destiny’s Child and The Big Lebowski brings the family-oriented musical "Will a Real Man Please Stare Up" to Memphis. The drama will be shown twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday. Tickets cost between $25 and $35. For showtimes or additional information, visit www.theatermam.com.

The Nutrocker Ballet Memphis presents "The Nutcracker" at the Orpheum Theater in Memphis Friday, Dec. 17 through Sunday, Dec. 19. The music will be performed by the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Tickets cost between $15 and $49 and can be purchased at www.theatermam.com.

Memphis Tigers The University of Memphis Tiger’s men’s basketball team is hosting Ole Miss Saturday at noon. This game will be played at FedExForum in Memphis. Tickets cost between $15 and $20 and can be purchased at www.theatermam.com.

COMEDY Ricky Smiley Ricky Smiley, the host of BET’s popular TV show "Comic View," will perform Friday night at 8 at the Cannan Center for Performing Arts in Memphis and next Friday night at 8 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Smiley is known for his family-friendly brand of humor and is a rising star in the comedy industry and has matured a bit during his time in the industry and has matured a bit during his time in the music industry and has matured a bit during her career. This album is all about fun, yet it showcases Jessica Simpson’s favorite Christmas songs and displays her incredible vocal range in the many different types of songs in her album.

This album is good, as it gets you in the mood for Christmas, and it is appropriate for any member of the family, both young or old. Jessica Simpson chose songs that many people know and love.

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Life takes turn, carries on

Here's something for ya: Life is definitely not easy.

For most of my life, I thought life was easy. I basically thought the parade of life was handed to me on a silver platter.

I remember my sophomore year at Harding being so happy. I was walking through the student center and knowing every person I saw. I remember being the people section editor for the yearbook — I may say this: that was the easiest job I've ever had. I worked around 20 hours a week and loved it. I also remember hanging out with the girls in Stephens 212. That was the life. I was happy because I didn't have to work for it. It seemed like Harding and God had handed me happiness.

Life has slowly become more difficult. My third and fourth years at Harding started revealing glimpses of the "real" world to me. Both years I served as the editor-in-chief of the yearbook. Let's just say the yearbook section editors, both then and now, have no idea the pains and stresses the chief goes through. But I still loved it. And both years I watched my friends mourn the losses of loved ones. That was difficult, but it was never me doing the mourning.

Now I'm a fifth-year senior. I can honestly say I have never experienced life the way I have this year. Things were going along swimmingly until October. Work was fine. I'm now the assistant in the student publications office. My friends who are left at Harding were fine. Everything was fine. Then everything changed Oct. 16. I was lying in bed when my phone rang at about 12:30 a.m. I heard Lauren Candy, this year's leadership editor for the yearbook. I remember screaming and thinking, "That can't be true. She was just in the office yesterday."

Lauren was the first young person I knew who died. And for several days after she died, I kept asking God why. Nothing about Lena's situation made sense.

Then, at Lena's celebration of life, I remember a conversation I had with a friend of mine the night before Lena died. Funny how God has his ways.

"I am a very blessed person," my friend said. "It feels like no matter what happens to me, it always turns into a blessing."

"But your dad died when you were younger," I said. "You barely got to know him."

The conversation continued as she rang again. This time it was my parents. "His faith was a part of my life," I said. "His best friend was killed."

According to Scott Ewing, a youth minister in Illinois, was 29 and had a 2-year-old son. God has a plan, I thought.

The youth minister from back home has a long recovery, but he will be fine. But the Ewing family has lost a son, a father, a husband. A church in Illinois has lost a youth minister. What is God's plan?

Now I know my silver platter happiness wasn't real. I didn't work for it. I didn't rely on God. Now I am forced to rely on God. I am forced to work for my happiness.

The parade of life is not a silver platter. The parade of life can be rained on sometimes.

"Renée, I don't know how to tell you this," my mom said.

"Mom, just tell me," I said. "I can handle it."

"Tami was murdered last night," my mom said.

Tami was one of my club party girls in junior high and high school. I didn't even know what to say to this one. Even though we found out later that she died of a drug overdose and wasn't murdered, it was still shocking. She was my age. She was my friend. She was a part of my childhood. Suddenly went back to junior high, sitting in Tami's room listening to Waterfall by TLC and talking about Jason, the resident hottie at Salem High School.

God has a plan. I know this. But this one was tough.

The parade of life continues...

On Sunday I called home. My sister answers the phone.

"Our youth minister was in a car accident tonight," my sister said. "His best friend was killed."

Her best friend Scott Ewing, a youth minister in Illinois, was 29 and had a 2-year-old son. God has a plan, I thought.

The youth minister from back home has a long recovery, but he will be fine. But the Ewing family has lost a son, a father, a husband. A church in Illinois has lost a youth minister. What is God's plan?

Now I know my silver platter happiness wasn't real. I didn't work for it. I didn't rely on God. Now I am forced to rely on God. I am forced to work for my happiness.

The parade of life is not a silver platter. The parade of life can be rained on sometimes. Correction, it can be poured on sometimes. But, on his new album, "We Carry On," Tim McGraw says, "We carry on." When our lives come undone, we carry on. Cause there's a promise in the morning sun. We carry on, as the dark surrenders to the dawn. We were born to overcome. We carry on."
Buff the Bison: The interview

I grabbed my notebook and my tape recorder and took them harboring below in the secret labyrinths and lairs where our famous Buff the Bison is said to dwell. The tragedy I found there greatly surprised me.

Me: "Buff! What happened? You look terrible. I mean look at yourself, you're supposed to be the irreplaceable spirit of the school and you look..."

Buff: "...Pathetic! I'm going through a confusing phase right now."

Me: "Well, you better get back on the ball! Somebody's gotta go rally up our school into that dazzling exhibition of pride and cheer. You can't do that as you are. What have you done with yourself?"

Buff: "I'm just confused about my role. I mean, I try to do my job, but the cheerleaders shun me, the coaches yell at me, the band picks on me, the athletes ignore me and the fans insult me. Even worse, half of the kids burst out crying when I approach them. You should get that walking-robot guy to replace me. It seems like everyone likes him better."

Just then, other bizarre-shaped shad­ows to the left - hot dogs, churros, chickens, gargoyle beavers and large-headed generals surrounded me.

Immediately, I pressed Buff for an answer, and he explained that this was his community that he started, a community of fellow misunderstood and unappreciated mascots.

Sly the Snake was there from Sneed University. Arrogant and legless, he was peering at nothing but to roll around on the sidelines. "I've got to be the dumbest mascot ever made!" hissed the snake.

Then the Tooth came from Hough­ton's School of Dentistry. "Pretty soon the idea of being an over-sized facial bone becomes unappealing," moaned the molar.

And finally, the new Big Guy came from Hickman County. "I feel for the guy though; I'm sure he did his best. Unfortunately for his true love, however, he was just not very good." The one thing he had right was the five golden rings, and quite honestly, I would have offered a verse (nine ladies dancing was at the top of the price list at $4.085 per ring). Luckily for the present­ giver, gallons of gasoline didn't make it into the song, as Christ­ mas 2004 could have been much worse on his pocket.

"I feel that the total price hov­ering around where it was this time last year."

"I didn't think this $66,334 well up at all."

"After all, at the end of the 12 days, more than half of gifts - 184 to be exact - are various types of birds. A bird might be nice, but one with eyes would be better. You can be sure those are going straight back to the pet store. I feel for this guy though: I would have done it better. Unfortunately for his true love, however, he was just not very good." The one thing he had right was the five golden rings, and quite honestly, I would have offered a verse (nine ladies dancing was at the top of the price list at $4.085 per ring). Luckily for the present­ giver, gallons of gasoline didn't make it into the song, as Christ­ mas 2004 could have been much worse on his pocket.

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Proud to be a Rowdie

I do not think I have ever been so proud to be a part of the Rhodes Rowdies as I was Monday night as the Bisons took on Montevallo.

For those of you who were not present at the Rhodes, you missed out.

The night started off like any other night. Students and fans poured into the doors of the Rhodes Field House decked in school spirit, while the players warmed up on the court. After retiring to the locker rooms for one last pep talk, the team returned to the floor for introductions. The Rowdies drowned out the names of the starters for Montevallo and cheered as the names of the starting Bisons were announced.

Everyone rose from their seats for the National Anthem, and after a few laughs when the wrong song came across the sound system, everyone waited patiently for the night to begin. \n
The singing slowly spread around, and the full sound of a small group of people singing quickly turned into one of the most amazing things I have ever heard. For a few minutes, everyone was lost in his original position. \n
Morgan Huckeba, assistant coach, said, "I guess what I really wanted to say was, "That was awesome." To those of you who started singing and to everyone who ended up singing, thank you.

Prior to Monday night, my favorite memory of a Bison basketball game was when a player from the opposing team earned the name "Banana." While all of the Rowdies antics will always be fun to look back on, hearing the "Star Spangled Banner" come from the voices of the fans rather than over a P.A. system will be my favorite memory as a Rowdie.

Bison football makes changes in coaching

SARAH CRIST

sports editor

The Bisons football team announced two coaching posi­

tions Nov. 30.

Head coach Randy Tribble said he hopes the changes will stimulate some excitement and new ideas and better utilize the talents of each coach.

"Our coaching staff has been together for quite awhile," Tribble said. "We have all had the same responsibilities and have all remained the team's strength and conditioning coach. The team's line backers will now report to Rodney Mote, assistant coach in this area.

Ronnie Huckeba, assistant professor of kinesiology, will move from the running backs to coaching the outside linebackers and will remain the team's passing game as well.

Clay Beason, assistant professor of kinesiology, will move from coaching the running backs to coaching the outside linebackers and will remain the team's strength and conditioning coach.

James Frank, assistant professor of kinesiology, will become the defensive line coach. Ronnie Huckeba, assistant professor of kinesiology, will move from the outside linebackers to the defense as the defensive backs coach. Klay Bartee, assistant professor of kinesiology, will become the offensive line coach.

James Frank, assistant professor of kinesiology, will remain as the defensive backs coach. Mike Anklam, assistant professor of kinesiology, will become the offensive coordinator.

"I felt I needed someone to better organize our recruiting efforts, and coach Frank excels in recruiting," Tribble said.

Quarterbacks and wide receiv­ers will continue to report to Scott Ragasdale, assistant professor of computer science. Ragasdale will join the team as a consultant for the position.

Clay Beason, assistant professor of kinesiology, will move from coaching the running backs to coaching the outside linebackers and will remain the team's strength and conditioning coach.

The team's linebackers will now report to Rodney Mote, assistant coach in this area.

"I'm really looking for people to improve our total effectiveness of our program," Tribble said.

The football team ended off­ season workouts Dec. 7 so play­ ers could prepare for finals, but Tribble said they have done a good job adjusting to the changes.

"Our players seem excited," Tribble said. "They won't really get to see or know how much they are appreciated.

"We've had awesome crowds so far this year and they are making sure the fans know how much they are appreciated.

"We have to have a better job of defending the paint," Morgan said. "We have to be more physical and bring down more rebounds.

"From Alabama the team will travel to Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 29-30 to participate in the West Florida Classic. The Bisons will play against Union College and the University of West Florida before heading back to Aar­ kansas to finish non-conference play against the University of Arkansas - Little Rock.

"The guys are really looking forward to playing in Florida," Morgan said. "Unfortunately, we won't be able to stay around after the games since we have a game against UAB Jan. 2. It's going to be a quick turnaround." A game against Delta State in Cleveland, Miss., will begin the Bisons' conference play Jan. 6. The first conference game at home will take place against the University of Arkansas - Montevallo Jan. 10.

The team is looking forward to conference play this year, Morgan said. "Everyone is in for a real treat this year because of the strength of the conference. It is better than it ever has been.

JEFF MORGAN, \nBISON BASKETBALL COACH

Bisons prepare for road trip

SARAH CRIST

sports editor

With a 4-2 record, the Bisons are preparing to take their holiday season basketball play on the road. Over the next month the team will travel to Alabama, Florida and Mississippi before returning to the Rhodes Field House Jan. 10.

"The road trip will definitely be long," coach Jeff Morgan said. "It will seem like we are starting over at home when we do get to play at home again.

"It's a real treat this year because of the strength of the conference. It is better than it ever has been.

"Everyone is in for a real treat this year because of the strength of the conference. It is better than it ever has been.

Jeff Morgan, BISON BASKETBALL COACH

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Lady Bisons to travel to Hawaii for Classic

Rebecca Steffan
Student reporter

The Lady Bison basketball team's Christmas break will include their beach and basketball as it travels to Honolulu, Hawaii, for the Hoop 'N Surf Classic. The team will leave for the Aloha State early Dec. 16 to participate in the Classic for the first time.

The Classic is made-up of eight teams who each play predetermined games. Harding is scheduled to play Northwest Missouri State University and the University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

Playing during the holidays has both negative and positive aspects for the girls.

"Even though it isn't as much time at home, we get to go to Hawaii and play teams that we've never gotten to play before," junior Michelle Freeman said.

Since it is the last NCAA basketball game Harding will be playing in the Classic against Lyon College but defeated St. Edwards by a score of 70-54. The Lady Bisons won the game 70-54, but lost in the final game of the Classic.

"One of our main goals this year is to protect our home court. The coaches here really help us get pumped up." - Michelle Freeman, junior

X-country finishes in Top 10

Rebecca Steffan
Student reporter

The men's and women's cross country teams went home from the NCAA II Cross Country Championship in Evanville, Ind., Nov. 20, having earned a fifth place title for the men and ninth place title for the women.

Thousands of people lined the six mile course, some had traveled more than 3,000 miles to cheer on their friends, teammates and family, coach Steve Guymon said.

"The atmosphere is kind of hard to explain," Guymon, likening the spirited crowd to that of a football game.

The men and women's teams competed against the 24 best teams in the country, earning their way to the championships through hard work and determination, Guymon said.

The women's goal was to place in the top 10, Guymon said, and they performed exactly as he had expected.

"We spend an average of 12 hours a week just practicing together plus hanging out after practice," Freeman said.

Before the break officially starts, the Lady Bisons will play the University of Alabama-Huntsville at 6 tonight in the Rhodes Field House.

The team defeated UAH by a score of 79-74 Nov. 29 and have been working on their weaknesses in practice in hopes of another win.

"The three main things we're working on are taking better care of the basketball, increasing our number of rebounds and keeping a good defense," coach Brad Francis said.

In preparation for difficult games, the team often practices twice a day rather than its normal once a day practice.

"We needed to work on turnovers, but I love our offense getting better," Freeman said. "I'm looking forward to another win." Guymon said. "It's a tremendous year." Senior Singo, placed 16th at the 10K race with a time of 32:53.5.

Senior Helen Singo, the top Lady Bison finisher, placed 16th in the 6K race in 22 minutes, 31.5 seconds. Sophomore Kalina Stetyn finished 18th in 22:30.5. Both runners earned All-American honors, Singo's for the second time in her career.

The Lady Bisons were also represented by junior Abby Rodenbeck, sophomore Vicki Echeverria, Jessica Fingrey and Mary Brown, and freshman Savita Chalino.

"We had a great race, but finishing fifth, it was a little disappointing but we've had a tremendous year," said Guymon of the team's performance. "It was a little disappointing - but we've had a tremendous year. We've got strong runner's up front, and it's a young team." Sophomore Peter Kosgei placed fourth in the 10K event in 32:02.3 and same in as Harding's top runner. Reed Fisher placed 30th in the 10K with a time of 32:33.5. Both runners earned All-American honors for the second time in their careers.

Senior Maciej Mierzowski, junior Blake Conely, sophomore Artur Bohrak, senior Jake Durland and freshman Julius Kosgei also represented the Lady Bisons. The senior team finished one second behind the leaders of Kern in 45th place and Kern in 46th.

Guymon said he evaluates what he is doing every day. "It's been an honor coaching the girls." Guymon said. "They represent Harding with tremendous passion. I love my kids to be around them, I'm just really proud at what they've done and accomplished.*

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Bright lights inspire creativity, photo eye

Green and red are worn a bit more frequently; that "seasonal" aisle in Wal-Mart is now filled with candy canes and Berryhill Park is all aglow with its annual Christmas light exhibit. This can only mean one thing: it's Christmas time in Searcy.

I'm not a big Christmas person, but I have always gotten a little more out of the Christmas lights that inevitably grace the streets than most Christmas enthusiasts do. It is truly wonderful when ordinary things are transformed into great photographs with just a simple string of lights. Those twinkling bulbs of color make my already overactive photo-seeking eyes go into overdrive.

This resulted in me squandering a good two hours, romping blissfully about the park, snapping photos of every light that winked my direction. And the next day I went back for more.

I realize that Christmas lights are a source of joy for many others out there, but for me, specifically when taking photos of them, they alter my reality in a way that puts me in such a great Christmassy mood that not even the looming finals week could ruin it. Christmas lights are my Disney World. Surround me with some good Christmas lights, hand me my camera and you've got yourself one very happy photographer.

Happy would actually be an understatement. Overjoyed ... elated ... euphoric. Now those are words that might just come close to capturing how I feel when I am among those glittering specks of light.

So whether it's the break from school, family time, great food or even an abnormal obsession with Christmas lights, everyone can find something about Christmas to get excited about.

CHELSEA ROBERSON is a sophomore advertising major and the 2004-2005 Bison photographer. She will continue the "Through the Lens" series for the rest of the year. She can be reached at 501-279-4696 or croberso@harding.edu.