Police investigate church break-ins

DENNIS MCCARTY
student reporter

In the past five months, three break-ins at the Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy have cost the church almost $30,000 in damages and stolen items.

According to Searcy Police reports, the break-ins occurred Dec. 13, Feb. 1 and March 18. Each situation involved forced entry through the building's basement entrance and vandalism of the building's interior. Doors to the offices and equipment rooms were broken into, and several computer monitors were destroyed.

In the most recent case, graffiti writers were sprayed down the building's halls and into some of the downstairs rooms.

The Sky's the Limit


The Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy has been broken into three times in the last five months. The perpetrators vandalized several rooms and stole electronic equipment.

"I feel like they're troubled people, and we need to pray for them," Matthew said.

Mathews also said that day-to-day operations were slightly altered because of the clean up, but worship at the church has not been affected.

Dr. Steve Frye, associate professor of communication and a dean at the downtown campus, said he feels comfort in that the crimes seem to be the work of only a few individuals and do not relate to problems with the local community.

"I'm saddened that they would vandalize a place of worship," Frye said. "I hope that they can get some help and we can set up some structures to prevent people from feeling the need to do this."

Dr. Daniel Stockell, associate professor of Bible and a Downtown Church of Christ shepherd, said the community has been concerned and is working to provide improved security. However, he said the church is doing its best to not let the concerns become a barrier to ministry.

"If we were to talk to the person who did this, I would tell them that we and God love them," Stockell said. "God would call them to 'steal no more,' as Ephesians 4:28 says."

McKinney said the church community is baffled with the crimes and the perpetrators have not been caught.

"McKinney said the church is doing its best to not let the crimes become a barrier to ministry. The church is taking bids to install a new security system that could cost $6,000 to $9,000."

The Searcy Police Department says it is continuing to investigate the crimes.

A right to live or die? Schiavo case generates ethical debate

ERIN COOK
student reporter

The highly publicized case involving Terri Schiavo and questions about her right to live or die has stirred emotions nationwide and across Harding's campus this week.

Schiavo, a 41-year-old Florida woman who was left brain dead in 1990 after suffering a massive heart attack, died Thursday morning, more than 19 days after doctors removed the feeding tube that had kept her alive for 15 years.

Schiavo's husband, Michael, had fought for years to have the feeding tube removed, insisting she never would want to live in a persistent vegetative state.

However, she did not leave written instructions for medical treatment, so her parents had fought to keep her alive, insisting she was only disabled and could be rehabilitated. Over the years, courts sided with Michael Schiavo in more than a dozen cases.

The controversial case prompted many in the Harding community to consider the ethical questions the case raised and evaluate their own wishes if they were ever in a similar situation.

Freshman Matt Snow said he thinks Schiavo should have been allowed to live despite her condition.

"Things happen for a reason," Snow said. "God [wanted] that woman alive for a reason. Someone's life could [have been] changed because of her and her condition—it's something we can never know."

Snow said Schiavo's situation crossed the border of assisted suicide.

"She [wasn't] dying," Snow said. "Despite what her husband says she would want, if this type of assisted suicide is OK, where do we draw the line?"

Junior Slade Daniel said he thinks it is difficult to decide what is best in this situation.

"I don't see anything good with her staying or going," Daniel said. "It is a hard issue that nobody should have to face. I don't see this as an ethical issue because it should have been about what is best for her. Schiavo had a right to die and to live; it is all about what is best for her."

Daniel said he would not want to live in a persistent vegetative state for long.

"I would want my family to try to rehabilitate me, but if there were no hope for me recovering, I would want them to end my suffering," Daniel said.

Dr. Ross Cochran, associate professor of Bible, said he believes the Schiavo case will have important implications beyond just the matter of assisted suicide.

"This is yet another example of how technology is dictating our quality of life," Cochran said. "This wouldn't have been an issue 40 years ago. I think that by yondering the single circumstance, you have to face what this is saying about our society. I'm glad as a nation we [struggled] with this," Cochran said. "This reminds us of the important decisions in life that are made daily."
4.01.05

OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

Blockbuster settles lawsuit in Arkansas

Arkansas Attorney General Mike Beebe announced March 29 that he has joined with 47 other attorneys general in a settlement with Blockbuster, Inc. The $350,000 settlement came after the states alleged that Blockbuster had used deceptive advertising in its “No Late Fees” campaign launched in December 2004.

Currently, if consumers keep a Blockbuster rental item longer than seven days, they are automatically charged the price of the item. If they do not wish to keep the item and return it, they are still charged a “restocking fee” of $1.25 or more. Additionally, individual franchises, six in Arkansas, chose not to participate in the new campaign, causing more confusion for customers.

Arkansas, one of the lead states in the investigation against Blockbuster, Inc., will receive $23,100 from the settlement. Individual consumers who filed a restitution claim will receive credits or refunds.

Attorney for celebrities dies at 67

Famed attorney Johnnie Cochran, 67, died March 29 at his home in Los Angeles after battling an inoperable brain tumor.

Though he built his career fighting police misconduct, Cochran became nationally known while defending football star O.J. Simpson in the early ‘90s during the high-profile murder trial. He later became one of the most sought-after celebrity lawyers, defending P. Diddy, Snoop Dogg, Tupac Shakur and Michael Jackson. “Certainly, Johnnie’s career will be noted as one marked by celebrity cases and clients,” his family said in a statement. “But he and his family were most proud of the work he did on behalf of those in the community.”

Dubai will build tallest skyscraper

The city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates plans to build a 124-story building named the Burj, Arabic for “tower,” to take the title of the earth’s tallest structure. For now, the world’s tallest building-to-be is just a flower-shaped concrete foundation on the desert sands, but its pilings are already in place, plunging 160 feet into the earth.

Developers are keeping the exact height a secret to Lumia competitors in the world’s race for the tallest skyscraper.

Designers have planned for catastrophes, including a plane strike of the sort that brought down the steel-framed World Trade Center.

A hotel will occupy the lower 37 floors. Floors 101 through 180 will hold apartments, with the rest, except for a 123rd-floor lobby and a 124th-floor observation deck, with an outdoor liner strike of the sort that brought down the steel-framed World Trade Center.

Corporate offices and suites will fill most of the rest, except for a 123rd-floor lobby and 124th-floor observation deck — with an outdoor terrace. The spire will also hold communication equipment.

The world’s current tallest building, at 101 floors, is the Taipei 101 in Taiwan, though the antennas on Toronto’s CN Tower make it 180 feet higher.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Myles Turner, senior

Hometown: Dallas
Major: Youth and family ministry

Mountains or beaches? Mountains

Favorite cartoon: “Care Bears”

Favorite scripture: Romans 8:18

What country would you move to? “Greenland because there is a lot of unexplored, and I would like to explore it all.”

What song is stuck in your head? “Blueface” by KattAsh

What is an activity you want to conquer? “I would like to climb all the 14,000-foot mountains in Colorado.”

Summer plans: “I am going to work with Wilderness Trek in Colorado.”

NEW ASSISTANT DEAN CHOSEN

Sheri Shearin, dean of Harding Academy’s Elementary school, will assume the role of assistant dean of students beginning this summer.

Shearin, the wife of Arthur Shearin, chairman of the music department, will work with the women’s residence life coordinators and female students.

ACADEMIC SURVEY COMING

The Harding Academic Integrity Committee will conduct a university-wide online survey April 4-11.

The survey, issued from the National Center for Academic Integrity, will cover topics including Harding’s policies on academic dishonesty and plagiarism. The committee hopes students and faculty will participate in the anonymous survey.

To encourage participation, the committee is offering 50 prizes ranging from local retailer discounts to a voucher for one free credit hour from the administration.

RELIGIOUS SEMINAR OFFERED

The Institute for Youth and Family will conduct a Religious Education Seminar April 8-9 with two sessions Friday evening and four sessions Saturday morning in the Mabee building.

The seminar will offer training for teachers of pre-school, elementary school and adult classes. Students can take the seminar for one hour of credit.

For more information, call Jerry Bowling, associate professor of Bible and youth and family ministry, at extension 4466.

ETHICS SPEAKER SLATED FOR 11TH

Kappa Omicron Nu and the Arkansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences will sponsor an ethics speaker at 4 p.m. April 11 in the Founder’s Room.

Peggy Love, an attorney and the Alternation Ethics Office for the Environmental Protection Agency, will speak. Refreshments begin at 3:45 p.m.

NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR SELECTED

The Student Services office announced earlier this month that Lynn McCarty will take over as director of Health Services.

McCarty will replace Pat Rice, who announced her intent to retire at the end of the year after more than 25 years of service to Harding.

McCarty, wife of retired U.S. Military Chaplain Dennis McCarty, was a member of Harding’s first nursing graduate class in 1977.

CAMPUS IN BRIEF

COMING UP

4.01 April Fool’s Day

4.02 Blockbuster movie, “Ocean’s 11,” Benson 7 and 9 p.m., $2 or free with the Pass

4.02 Blockbuster movie, “Ocean’s 12,” Benson 7 and 9 p.m., $2 or free with the Pass

4.03 Daylight Savings Time begins, spring forward

4.06 Open house for seniors, Pray, Shores, Kenny and WORMA 6:30-8:30 p.m.

4.07 No Housework Day

4.07 Jo Cleveland Creative Writing Banquet, guest speaker Leland Ryman, Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

4.07 Student-directed play, “Tall Tales,” Little Theatre, 7 p.m., $3 or free with the Pass

4.08 Student-directed play, “Tall Tales,” Little Theatre, 7 p.m., $3 or free with the Pass

4.09 Student-directed play, “Tall Tales,” Little Theatre, 7 p.m., $3 or free with the Pass

4.10 Open house for Armstrong, Graduate and Keller 6:30-8:30 p.m.

4.12 Peach Cobbler Day

4.15 Student-directed play, “Finding Neverland,” Benson 7 p.m., $3 or free with the Pass
Petit Jean receives top honor
'04 book wins national award; '05 edition finished

AUSTIN LIGHT
student reporter

While putting the finishing touches on this year's yearbook, the Petit Jean staff was awarded for its excellence in writing, editing, design concept, photography, art and graphics.

Senior Renee Lewis, assistant to the director of student publications, was editor-in-chief of last year's Petit Jean, and she said the staff did its best to publish an excellent book.

"The Petit Jean has always had a tradition of excellence. We've always had a very strong book for the college and campus," Lewis said. "I never thought, 'Let's win a national award.' I just thought, 'Let's make this book better. Let's make this book the best we can make it.'"

Candy said she worked with some of the same staff members who won the Gold Crown to complete this year's yearbook, and she said she is glad it is finished.

"It was just an honor to work with the people who did the book last year -- and it's a relief to have it done now," Candy said.

Miller said he had high hopes for the 2005 Petit Jean, but he was representing the school accurately is what matters most.

"We feel good about this year's book," Miller said. "Ultimately, our goal is to represent Harding University and this year's student body with the Petit Jean, and I think this year's book does that."

Senior Kyle Vath uses his stethoscope to listen to the heartbeat of a 10-month-old baby in June while with the College of Nursing mission trip at Chimala Mission Hospital in Chimala, Tanzania. Vath, a nursing major, is one of eight males currently enrolled in the College of Nursing.

Crossing gender stereotypes
Males major in traditionally female professions

BONNIE BOWLES
student reporter

Although female students have traditionally dominated majors such as nursing, elementary education and interior design, the number of males in each of these programs is gradually increasing.

Junior Brandon Shirley, an interior design major, said he chose his major after he took a computer-aided drafting class in high school and liked drafting plans. He said the only ridicule he received for choosing his major comes from those who do not understand the work involved.

"I only [get teased] by people who don't really know what interior design is," Shirley said. "Many people think it is only picking out draperies and that type of thing. They don't know that [interior design] includes drafting plans as well."

Freshman Darrell Thompson, an elementary education major, said he chose his career because he loves children and thinks they need more male role models.

"Females seem to be more loving toward little kids, whereas guys tend to be more like 'OK, they're just fun to play with,'" Thompson said. "I think the typical male psyche just doesn't tend to click right away with [kids], and I think I'm just a little different in that way."

Dr. Betty Watson, director of early childhood education, said 13 male students have listed early education as their major. Watson said all of her male students will be wonderful role models for the children they plan to teach. She said this could be attributed to the spiritually minded, artistic and athletic natures that the men exhibit.

Summer Mills, assistant to the dean of the College of Nursing, said although the number of males currently enrolled in nursing is small, the College of Nursing is experiencing increased interest from the male student population.

"Nationally, only 5.4 percent of (registered nurses) are male," Mills said. "There are 99 students in the College of Nursing, of whom 16 are male. Eight more men have applied to enter the nursing program in the fall, effectively doubling the number of male students."

Senior Kyle Vath, a nursing major, said nursing is definitely female dominated, but he said people at Harding are normally supportive of his career choice. He said he is glad the misunderstanding between men's and women's roles seems to come from outside the nursing field, not within.

"Really, in the work field it's not a big deal," Vath said. "In fact, a lot of times, they'd love to have guy nurses. I am a male, and I am going to be a nurse. But it's not a big deal. You never hear someone called a female nurse."

Students affiliate with other beliefs

SUSANNA SMITH
features editor

Although founded as a university affiliated with the churches of Christ, admission records show more than 1,000 students enrolled at Harding do not claim the church of Christ as their religious affiliation.

The report, which includes undergraduate and graduate students on the Searcy campus and at branch campuses, shows that 4,966 students claim churches of Christ. The next largest church preference is Baptist with 426. The third highest preference is Methodist with 104. Eighty-four students claim Catholicism. The Jewish and Mormon faiths each received one student preference.

Buck Gardner, director of First Year Experience, said the involvement of students from different church backgrounds has its drawbacks. "As a minister, you have to understand that there are people who are not knowledgeable in church traditions," he said.

"We do use students of different faiths. That's a very sensitive issue. The board [of trustees] has a policy. The university was founded on the fact that all faculty and administrative staff are supposed to be members of good standing of the church of Christ. That trickles down to some of the key [student] leadership positions," Gardner said.

"I don't view the classes that I teach as intended to convert someone. I don't want to convert anyone," Dr. Dale Manor, assistant professor of Bible/archaeology, said.

"You have to have a belief system shared," Timms said. "There is no belief-based organization that doesn't want people to espouse what they are espousing. You have to be able to talk to people who are different than you, even if you don't agree with what they espouse for you."

"The only ridicule I've experienced when hiring resident assistants, she expects to find students from different faiths to feel comfortable."

"I really care about being to listen to the discussion."*
Filling gas tanks
Record prices affect students' wallets

BRIAN HALL
news editor

As gas prices continued to rise to record highs this week, students prepared to feel the impact on their already tight budgets.

As of March 30, AAA's Daily Fuel Gage Report stated that the national average for a gallon of regular unleaded gas was $2.16. According to the report, the average had increased to 40 cents more than the price this time last year, becoming the highest average ever recorded.

According to the report, the average price of gas in the state of Arkansas topped $2.09 per gallon, just 6 cents cheaper than the national average.

Junior Andrew Dorsey said he drives to Little Rock often, and the increase in cost has required him to be more efficient in his driving time.

"I travel to Little Rock frequently, so it hurts all the time," Dorsey said. "I have to plan out my trips now. I try to do several things when I go, or I have to have [at least] three runs a day travel."

Dorsey said he and his roommate work at Starbucks in Little Rock, so they try to split the costs of their commute.

"Often, I will try to carpool with my roommate to work," Dorsey said.

Sophomore Maribeth Thompson said, as a commuting student from Flori, Ark., the price of gas is costing her more each day.

"I commute 40 miles each way, four days a week," Thompson said. "Gas prices [have] tightened [my budget] considerably."

Thompson said she will not be surprised to see gas prices go up again, considering the rising price of oil.

Sophomore Kellen Harkness said he thinks the best way to avoid rising gas prices is to make smart choices.

"I've always tried to save money by making only necessary trips," Harkness said. "I have a good gas-efficient car and don't drive a whole lot, so [my spending] hasn't really changed."

Dr. Budd Hebert, professor of business, said he thinks the rising gas prices will affect students in more ways than just filling up their gas tanks. He said he thinks the price of the products and groceries students buy will go up as well.

"With the higher prices of gasoline, it will cost more to drive trucks, that translates to higher prices of goods carried in those trucks," Hebert said.

According to a report by the Christian Science Monitor, gas prices are expected to rise another 15 cents, increasing the national average for a gallon of gas to $2.25 by the end of April.

Vocal Harmony
Acappella vocal group members Sean Samuel, Matt Sammons, Nicholas Dunbar and Gary Evans perform during chapel March 28. The group contributed to the lineup of Spiritual Emphasis Week in chapel, which also featured speaker Don McLoughlin, N. Atlanta Church of Christ, and worship leader Pat Bills, Hendersonville Church of Christ.

Missions program reaches America

JENNIFER ALLEN
student reporter

According to George Gallups report, "Church in the World Today," North America is the only continent where Christianity is not growing.

One Harding domestic missions program, Outreach America, is trying to reverse this trend by developing teams of students to become domestic vocational missionaries.

Marvin Crowson, domestic missionary in residence, said every Wednesday night more than 20 students attend a devotional at his house to worship and learn more about Outreach America.

He said they came to the devotional to meet and build relationship ships with people interested in planting new churches or helping existing churches grow.

Crowson said on campus he actively recruits trains and brings teams together to prepare them to enter the U.S. mission field.

"Once a team is settled in a city, the team is completely on its own, Crowson said. He makes himself available to offer advice and support when the team needs it.

"I'm not over them," Crowson said. "I help them do what they're wanting to do."

Outreach America is not just for Bible majors, Crowson said. As vocational missionaries, the team support themselves and get involved with the community through their careers, having more of an influence in the community.

"Teams need teachers and engineers, nurses and social workers," Crowson said. "[Students should] go out and use their careers to support themselves while planting churches. Most people at Harding leave and find jobs. Most don't return home. Why not go with a group of friends to a new place, get jobs and intentionally do something significant?"

Senior Taylor Plott said he and eight other students are planning to move to Boston in 2006. He said forming a domestic missions team is not difficult.

"Look to your friends," Plott said. "It's not something people think about doing, but when you talk about it, you're surprised who's interested.

Junior Krista Lee said she believes the nation's Christianity is declining.

"Plenty of people are willing to evangelize in global work," Lee said. "Not too many people are willing to work in our own backyard with our own people. I'm excited to save America before I try to save the world."

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Track champs tighten up

"Burned-out high school stars’ race again"

When a runner signs up for the cross-country team, he or she signs up for five to 16 miles a day, plus 6 a.m. practices on Saturdays. When a runner signs up for the track team, he or she signs up for 10 to 12 miles a day, plus cross-training and 7 a.m. practices on Saturdays.

This was a little more commitment than sophomore Scot Jackson and his friends wanted. Jackson ran track in high school and thought about running track for Harding this year. Along with some friends, he said he decided joining the track team would be more work than he wanted, so they started their own running club, temporarily called the Running Jackalopes.

"It's a bunch of us burned-out high school stars," Jackson said. "We're not very strict at all."

Freshman Michael Pruitt said the easy-going practices are stress-relievers.

"We mostly just do it to take a break from the day," Pruitt said. "It frees you from any stress you might be experiencing - running and hanging out with friends."

Pruitt said the group grew out of his social club.

"It started within our club, Knights," Pruitt said. "One night in our meeting, Scot decided to tell the club about it."

The men who run with Pruitt and Jackson are graduate student Andy Gann, seniors Kris Kyle and Matt Pruitt, junior Mark Johnston, and freshman Andrew Hall. Jackson said there were more when the group started running in January but not many of them come regularly.

"If people want to join, they can," Jackson said.

Jackson said the group is looking to start a women's team called the Lady Jackalopes.

Gann said the group practices for races three or four days a week. Team members meet outside Allen Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Mondays.

Wednesday and Fridays and run for about 50 minutes at the track and sometimes through town.

Gann said he enjoys running with the group because it helps him run faster.

"It's easier to pace off other people," Gann said. "And it's fun. They're a great group of guys."

Jackson said the Jackalopes don't have an official leader, but the runners call Jackson "coach."

"Me and Matt [Pruitt] collaborate on the workouts," Jackson said.

Last month, the club competed in the Knights of Columbus Winter Sprinter, a 5K race open to the public in Morrilton, Ark.

"We pay an entry fee, and the money goes for charity," Jackson said. "We got mugs for winning."

Matt Pruitt won the race.

"I thought it was really awesome because he hadn't run any long-distance races since high school," said Michael Pruitt, Matt's brother. "He wasn't really happy about his time [19:34], but he was happy that he got first place.""

The runners hope to compete in races about once a month, but spring break threw them off, and the Jackalopes are just getting back into their routine Jackson said.

Jackson said he doesn't know where the name for the group came from.

"My last name is Jackson, so that's part of it," he said.

He said he heard the word "jackalope" when he was visiting friends in New Mexico. When the group started running together, he suggested the name Jackalopes, and it stuck. Gann said they liked the name Jackalopes because they're "super, super fast runners."

Freshman Michael Pruitt and sophomore Scot Jackson practice plyometrics jackalope style. Michael Pruitt said the half-hour practices are easy-going compared to the two-hour workouts of more serious athletes.
Students hold differing beliefs

Susana Smith
features editor

What do you know about the church of Christ?

Pamela Jewell: I didn't know that the church of Christ existed until I came to Bison Daze.

Daniel Isaac: It was even worse for me because 98 percent of my country [Panama] is Catholic. Before coming here, I had never seen a church of Christ.

Mark Rucker: I thought I knew a lot about the church of Christ before I got here. Most of my friends at home grew up church of Christ, but it was an extremely liberal church of Christ.

Rob Scott: You can fall from grace, unlike the Baptists where once saved is always saved.

Why did you come to Harding?

MR: I guess I had a pretty open-minded family life growing up. That's why I came here. Just to learn about another group. Try and understand how different people think and why it is they say what they say.

DR: I talked to some priest about [coming here] and they said, "Oh, you shouldn't go there." Inside I was like, "Well, you're not going to pay for my school." My youth minister chided me out pretty bad when he found out I was coming here. He yelled at me, saying, "I can't believe you're going to be with those people. They're horrible people." I even went and spoke with the North American Missions Board, which is a Southern Baptist mission board.

They told me that I could never be a part of them or do anything with them if I came here, unless I was to go to a Southern Baptist Church for two years and prove my loyalty to the Baptists. I was like, "That's kind of ridiculous."

PJ: My mom was really worried about me just going to churches of Christ. She wanted me to make sure that I tried what was out there, so that I personally made the decision, and I didn't just go because that's where all the kids from school were going.

What are some of the things you notice at Harding, being of a different religious affiliation?

MR: Whenever I apply for stuff and fill out applications, they always ask for your "church preference." And I'm never really too sure on what to put down there.

"I grew up Baptist," or something like that. I usually put down, "Christian," and I don't know how they take that.

DR: I receive comments that I don't quite enjoy. The ones that I most received were from people that were Catholic, "I was Catholic. I was lost, and suddenly I became church of Christ." Well, I'm Catholic, and I'm not lost. To me it's weird because I believe we have more similarities ... I don't consider myself a close-minded person. I'll go; I'll see. I don't lose anything listening to other people.

MR: [Responses] vary from person to person. There are those people I talk to and they find out [that I grew up Baptist], and their first response is to condemn me totally.

I haven't met a whole lot of those people, but unfortunately they stick out in my mind more than the bunch of people I've met and they're not like that.

Then there's the people I meet that when they find out I didn't grow up church of Christ, they decide it's their sole job to convince me why I'm wrong ... I've met enough people that have treated me poorly that I was very nervous about doing this interview in the first place.

DR: I think we should be more concerned about those who don't believe in God than those who believe in God and have different views - to reach people that have never heard the Bible or don't believe in God or believe in other gods.

PJ: There are certain people around that you get to know, and you get comfortable asking questions. There are other people you know to just avoid. I almost like [hearing their] views because I like taking all the opinions that I hear and kind of making them my own. I don't consider myself fitting into any denomination out there, really. I like hearing what people think is correct. It makes me think about what my opinion is on that.

DR: When I meet someone new they always ask me, "What church do you go to?" If I really care to have a friendship with that person I just kind of try not to answer that question.

MR: Something that could really help the student body is if people were more understanding. People come here, and I did the same, and they've only heard their one interpretation of the Bible preached to them for the last 18 years.

They can't comprehend how anybody else can view the Bible differently.

When they meet somebody that disagrees with them, they just don't even know how to deal with them.

What have you gained from being at Harding?

DR: A lot of tolerance for other cultures.

MR: I've been challenged biblically. I've gotten encouragement from my peers for my [future mission] work in Russia.

DR: I've learned patience and perseverance. Hearing different views has challenged my thinking. It's really allowed me to see God in a different way.

MR: People here emphasize new facets of God's character.

PJ: The whole experience of having the spiritual life so amplified and playing such a big role has been both good and bad. I was surprised.

At first, I thought it took away from the academics. I like the fact that being here, a big goal for everyone is service to others.

Sophomore Mark Rucker has attended a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian or Christian Church since he was born.

Freshman Rob Scott grew up attending a church of Christ, a Baptist church, a house church and then returned to a church of Christ.

Freshman Pamela Jewell attended a Baptist church for two years in high school after her classmate invited her to play in the orchestra there.

4,066 Church of Christ-affiliated students
426 Baptist-affiliated students
101 Christian Church-affiliated students
84 Catholic Church-affiliated students

According to admissions records, the following religious affiliations are represented at Harding.

A campus of diversity
When Copeland's first album, "Beneath Medicine Tree," was released in 2003, listeners were entranced by the mellow yet moving instrumentation combined with pure vocals.

Their new album, "In Motion," is no less noteworthy, with lyrics rooted in the spirituality of the band members and a sound permeated with a sense of urgency. The subdued tone of the instrumentation combined with the mellow yet moving lyrics is no less noteworthy, with lyrics rooted in the spirituality of the band members and a sound permeated with a sense of urgency. The song sounds like a typical love song, but it is actually about a sense of urgency.

The album opens with "Choose Who Loves You More," a hauntingly beautiful song that sets the tone for the rest of the album. The lyrics are as contemplative as they are moving, and the melody is soothing yet powerful. The listener over with raw guitar and the subtle use of backing vocals create a sense of intimacy that is both comfortable and captivating.

The song "Hold Nothing Back," ties the album together. The track, Copeland relays the greatest promise of love that has ever been proposed and reminds the listener who is the source of this ultimate love. Combining the language of the recording and building from the style of their previous album, Copeland proves they can mature as artists while not losing their special touch.

The song "Ring of Fire," is a tribute to the legacy of Johnny Cash and his impact on music. The lyrics express Marsh's love for the music and its ability to heal and connect people. "Ring of Fire" is a perfect example of how Copeland's music continues to evolve while staying true to its roots.

The song "Amber," features a sense of urgency and a sense of purpose. The lyrics are a call to action, encouraging listeners to make a positive impact on the world. The melody is bright and upbeat, contrasting with the weight of the lyrics.

The song "New Senses," is a meditative and introspective track. The lyrics explore the idea of finding new perspectives and understanding ourselves better. The melody is soft and gentle, creating a sense of peace and calm.

The song "Breathe," is a beautiful and moving love song. The lyrics express Marsh's passion for love and the desire to make the world a better place. The melody is romantic andSwedish. The hit Broadway musical 'Mamma Mia!' will be gracing the Orpheum Theatre box office at 901-526-3000 or go to www.tickemaster.com.

SPORTS
Memphis Grizzlies
Basketball fans should report to the FedEx Forum April 3 in Memphis to see the Grizzlies take on the Los Angeles Lakers. The game starts at 7:00 p.m. and ticket prices range from $32.50 to $75.

To purchase tickets, call the FedEx Forum box office at 901-888-ROOP or go to www.tickemaster.com.

LIVE MUSIC
Mid-South Metal Society
The Mid-South Metal Society will be holding a three-year anniversary show at Vinzo’s in Little Rock. The show will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2005, at 8:00 p.m. and ticket prices range from $10 to $15.

Free, self-paced Bible study courses are available by mail and E-mail in English, Spanish and French. People of all ages who are interested, both nationwide and worldwide, are invited. Please request our free courses and/or refer other people that may be interested. Unlimited lists of names and mail/E-mail addresses are welcome. Please contact us at: World Bible School P.O. Box 8195, Searcy, Ark. 72145 or visit our Web site at: www.wbschool.org

Horror movie sequels fail to deliver new scares

DENA POWER student reporter

One would think that the latest film in the never-ending series of post-'Ring' thrillers would have the edge on the competition. It is, after all, the sequel to the original. One would be sadly mistaken, however.

"The Ring Two," rated PG-13, is definitely a tragedy when you consider that millions of dollars were poured into this film. Seattle reporter Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) and son Aidan (David Dorfman) are the center of attention in this sequel to "The Ring." Moving fast to the small town of Ashville, Ore., Keller and her son try to get on with a regular life after their encounter with Samara, the creepy, black-haired ghost from the first movie.

The film doesn’t begin with the protagonist, however, but with a couple of bad teenage actors who have created an infamous video that leads to a gruesome, face-altering death. The thing is, one teen and the shock of the other both happen in the same little town in which Keller and son have decided to settle. Gee, what a coincidence.

A series of small incidents happen to keep the attention span going for maybe 20 minutes, and then the plot falls off. After a grueling hour, Keller figures out why the ghost of the murdered girl is after her son.

Keller takes a while to figure out that the twitchy girl ghost has possessed her son even after his temperatures dropped five degrees and he starts calling her "mommy" instead of the usual "Rachel." There is also a creepy bathtub scene where Keller intends to drown her son in order to get the angry ghost out of him. If you look at it closely, it’s almost like a baptism.

Talk about getting the evil out.

Another absolutely ridiculous scene features Keller and Aidan driving home and many deep- sea diving into the attack that the car was that really necessary? I think not. And if a scene like that has to be included, then at least make the deer look real.

Dorfman is a hoot as usual, but I kept expecting him to say, "I love you, mom." The climax of the movie was enjoyable enough, and Watts delivers a line that most action stars would be proud to say. In short: That one is her mother.

This "Ring" was definitely not as chilling as the first, and nobody has to worry about having nightmares after seeing this one. The best part of my movie experience was when some girl’s mom came into the movie theater and yelled for her to "Get down here right now!"

It was a much needed wakeup call for those in the audience that may have fallen asleep.
**Schiavo debate**

**Wife lay in stages of death**

When is the moment a person stops living? The three definitions of death in the medical community all have valid points.

The first is heart-lung failure. If they stop, a person is dead. With machines, however, this can be bypassed.

By 1980, doctors could define death as a lack of brain activity. Those who are whole-brain dead do not move or breathe without a machine. In many cases of whole-brain death, however, brain activity does not entirely cease.

In higher-brain death, one is considered dead if all parts of the brain responsible for functions higher than breathing and basic reflexes cease to operate. In this case, many ask not to be supported by machines because every aspect that makes them a person is lost.

People used to experience all these at once. Advances have made death gradual by inserting time lapses between the stages. Terri Schiavo had been dead for years. CAT scans show that her cerebral cortex had been replaced by spinal fluid. Schiavo could do nothing more than smile at loved ones and everything else that stimulates her involuntary reflexes.

Michael Schiavo did the right thing. He saw to it that basic right as the right over their own life. Terri could not decide for herself, and he saw to it that no one violated her right. Should he be punished for this?

Well, Terri made the decision to "leave" her parents and "clear" her husband's name. The court recognized that choice just like God has. Michael Schiavo has the legal right, but he stood firm despite multimillion dollar offers and criticism encouraging him not to.

Enduring describes only those glorifying God as truly living. Would you want to stagnate between the stages of death when you could pass to a new life and body that could truly give God what you were created to give him? If I reached the stages of death like Terri did, I hope someone would voice my right to pass on to something more glorious than a trapped, vegetative state.

NATHANIEL MAFFEY is a guest columnist and may be contacted at nmaffe@harding.edu.

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**Choose to err on side of life**

As a lifelong resident of Florida, I took an interest in the Terri Schiavo case. Like the legislators in Tallahassee and a number of citizens of this great country, I could not help but feel compassion for someone who could not speak up for themselves.

Many would argue that Terri Schiavo was in a persistent vegetative state; I would argue on the contrary. There were no machines pumping Terri's heart or forcing her to breathe.

When I watched the videos of Terri and her parents, I saw someone who laughed and verbally responded, as best she could, to the voice of her father.

Can a vegetable do these things?

The answer is no.

Terri Schiavo was a human being. Her disabilities did not qualify her to be a vegetable or a "house plant," as Michael Schiavo's attorney once said. To suggest these things is to devalue the human life. I would suggest that Michael Schiavo was not fit to be Terri's legal guardian. While I admit I do not know Mr. Schiavo's heart, it seems as though he had a number of conflicting interests.

The first of these is probably his fiancée, Jodi Centonzio. Schiavo had said he would wed after Terri's death. To complicate matters even more, Michael Schiavo has two children with Centonzio. I am stretched to think of why these issues were not a conflict of interest for Michael Schiavo as Terri's legal guardian. It is also important to see that the majority of Terri's medical malpractice award of $1.6 million was used to pay attorney fees for Michael Schiavo's legal council.

I am not an advocate of government intervention into the personal lives of the American people. There comes a time, however, when the legislature of this country must speak for the voices that cannot speak.

When the case was over, I was pleased with how Terri's wishes were respected. The day I walked out the Schindler family, the Florida Legislature and the U.S. Congress, time and again, fought unsuccessfully for Terri's right to life. Surely, that is something Terri would have been proud of.

I choose to err on the side of life, our nation is not harmed. If I choose death and am wrong, then a great battle has been lost.

BRUCE CHERN is a guest columnist and may be contacted at bechern@harding.edu.

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**How we connect**

Would you like to hear something real?

Right now you are deciding whether you should quit reading this article and throw it on a nearby table, or keep reading. The choice is yours.

Have you ever thought how different we are as Hardinians?

Some of us like school. Some struggle every day to go to school. Some of us are athletic. Some of us enjoy music.

Some of us live to sit in the student center. Some use it to pass the time, and some just avoid it altogether.

Some wear jerseys and many don't.

Some are considered outcasts and others popular.

In a way, we almost strive to let it be known that we are part of some group or are simply a loser.

The reason these groups are all so important to us is because we make it such a huge priority in our lives.

What if we broke down everything we know and looked at it in a different way?

Let's all try to connect (and I am not just talking about our connection as Christians because, believe it or not, we are not all Christians at Harding).

You see, somewhere someone is crying and needs just a little love or crush and someone can't find the will to get out of bed.

Someone was just laughed at, someone just found a reason to smile and someone just witnessed a miracle.

We are all the same because we have all felt these things before.

Yet, it is so easy to fall into the habit of separating ourselves because it is comfortable. It is what we know to do.

The other night I witnessed a miracle.

My friend was baptized. At that moment when she came out of the water, she became something more than my roommate and friend; she became my sister as well.

After she came out of the water, I didn't see her club colors or any other outside persona; I only saw someone who was connected to me in a way that she had never been before.

We broke out through the glass image and idea of who you think someone is, then you see the real person.

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Regaining our trust
Government should end excessive U.S. secrecy

OUR VIEW

Problem: Continued government secrecy over decades-old events does nothing to alleviate the suspicions of American citizens.

Solution: Release of documents that may not be entirely flattering to our government's actions in previous decades, but would pose no risk to current national security.

For decades, we have been a people who eye our government with a little bit of a suspicious eye. Most people believe the catalyst for this was the Watergate affair, but it could be argued that it goes back even further. Regardless of when it started, our government has not been very open about a great many things. Secrecy is definitely a good thing when it comes to issues of current national security. Information such as military strategies and the identities of undercover operatives is classified for a reason.

The problem arises when this silence extends to events that transpired years ago, the events which have little to do with any current U.S. conflicts or intelligence issues. The release of new information on certain events will enlighten us as citizens. How are we supposed to learn from history if we don't know what happened?

Is information being withheld out of fear that it might cause Americans to distrust their government? If so, then this line of thinking is ridiculous. Distrust of the government is the current norm. The media and culture of today is far more questioning than that of the 1950s or early 1960s. The release of decades-old, formerly classified information would be a step in the right direction were the government hoping to regain the trust of the American people.

The massive amount of documents still classified regarding events such as President Kennedy's assassination, as well as government denial of open secrets such as the existence of the base known as Area 51 which was officially acknowledged during Clinton's second administration) make our government seem far more sinister than it most likely is.

In 1998, The Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group started to declassify CIA documents which showed the agency's ties to former Nazis and war criminals, particularly during the Cold War. The massive amount of documents was disbanded by the end of last month, but President Bush signed a bill into law Friday, March 25, which extends the life of the group through March 2007.

We at the Bison would like to commend President Bush for signing this legislation. Hopefully this decision will set an example for future presidents in the declassification of formerly sensitive documents.

The release of documents such as these may not be flattering to our government, but a willingness to share information about mistakes would help it save face.

Q: Have you ever cried in a movie, and if so, which one?

"I cried while watching 'The Passion,' but that's it."

"I cried during 'Stepmom' because my inner child completely overemotionalized me."

"One time I cried during a Hooked on Phonics commerical. And those Cybalnic Learning commercials — those get me every time."
Sophomore Ryan Applegate leads team to first-place finish at Lyon College Invitational

JULIE PYE
student reporter

After a two-day conference March 21-22, the Bison golf team added another victory to its 2005 season. The team competed against seven teams at the Lyon College Invitational in Batesville, Ark., where it finished in first place with a 4-stroke lead. The team left the course March 21 with a 12-stroke lead. After inclement weather March 22, the men returned to the course and held the first-place position to win with a score of 409.

The Bison team includes junior Matt Hall, sophomores Craig Devereaux and Andrew Marrs, one of five freshmen. The team is on day I redeemed myself and rebuilding as they depend on one win played pretty junky, and the team out, that's all the roomes I can, and the team out, that's all.

Osburn said Boyd determines who qualifies for conference" gives you a tournament-like atmosphere," Carstensen said. "You have to play everything as it is and try to beat the other guys; it's a lot of fun competition. It's frustrating when you think you're playing well, and you're not. Golf is individual, but you can push each other to work at it. I like the pressure on yourself. I like that you don't have to depend on anyone else to do well — it's all on you.

"If we're having problems, we go out to the range and video our strokes, but it's a long process to mature in golf because it's such an individual sport." AUSTIN OSBURN, Sophomore

Sophomore Ethan Bryant works on his swing during practice March 29. Bryant is one of nine men on the Bison tennis team, which, along with the nine-member women's team, is coached by David Elliot. Elliot is the winningest coach in Harding's history.

Ethan, who began coaching tennis at Harding in 1975, said he started playing tennis in the seventh grade with no concept of the game. Elliot said he fell in love with the game and continued to play through high school and college and then began his career as a coach at Harding Academy. After 28 years of working with tennis teams, Elliot said his favorite aspect of coaching is managing and directing the players.

"I like encouraging the players to stay positive and helping them prepare for their matches," Elliot said.

Today, Elliot continues to lead the tennis teams to victories. The nine men and nine women on the tennis teams attend intensive practices five days a week but are off most weekends.

"He is fun and relaxed and like another player on the team," Ferreira said. "He is pretty much a part of everything we do.

"He is fun and relaxed and like another player on the team. He is pretty much a part of everything we do," Ferreira said. "He is pretty much a part of everything we do." Elliot said it was all fun and games on the court; the players have to work hard to win and stay in shape.

"Tennis, more than any other sport, is a sport of extremes," Elliot said. "We have some of the best teams in Division II, and [I think they] compare to the level of Division I.

Elliot said the team won the national championship in its league last year. He said he enjoys coaching students from Harding because they are not only talented, but they are also more than just team members.

"The teams are close knit," Elliot said. "We are like a family."
Shaking ground

Appreciated, Major League Baseball players from opposing teams aren’t allowed to shake hands before a game. After the Boston Red Sox comeback against the Yankees in the 2004 American League Championship Series, battles ensued between players and fans alike. These battles even found their way onto the playgrounds of an elementary school in Acton, Mass.

Because fights were breaking out on the playground between young Yankee fans and Red Sox fans, school officials decided to take their peacemaking efforts to the pros in an attempt to calm the chaos.

Their goal: Get the Red Sox and Yankees to shake hands like Boston’s home opener April 11.

After school assemblies addressed sportsmanship, students put together a PowerPoint show and mailed it to owners, managers and team members, encouraging them to shake hands Opening Day.

I know the students had some help with the PowerPoint, but even so, the opening slide makes the biggest impact with a picture of students saying, “We look up to you.” One of the following slides shows Boston’s Jason Varitek and New York’s Alex Rodriguez in a brawl, while another shows students shaking their fists at one another. The caption reads, “We follow your example.”

Yankee owner George Steinbrenner has already expressed his support for this show of sportsmanship, as has Red Sox manager Terry Francona. However, Francona specified that it would not force any of his players to shake hands.

Besides the fact that some of the players are less than thrilled with the idea, Major League Baseball has a rule that discourages fraternization between team members when uniform. The students’ response to this was that if children can shake hands and conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike way, so can adults.

I have to give the children credit for their work. I just hope that their stand doesn’t fall on deaf ears, or worse, cause another fight.

Coach Shane Fullerton talks with the Bison baseball team after a 2004 game. After nine years with the baseball program, Fullerton resigned his position to become assistant coach of the Lady Bisons basketball program.

Fullerton will switch from baseball to basketball

Sarah Crit

Sports editor

After nine years as the Bison baseball coach, Shane Fullerton announced March 23 his plans to join the Lady Bison basketball program as assistant to head coach, Terry Kirby.

"My time in our baseball program has been one of the most special times in my life and in the lives of all the members of my family," Fullerton said.

Fullerton said that when he and his wife told their two sons about the changes, his oldest son listed players by name and talked about how much he would miss them.

"That is exactly the way I feel about these guys," Fullerton said. "The thing I have loved most about my job is the relationships I have had with my players."

During his time with the Bison baseball team, Fullerton acquired an overall record of 206-200-3. He led his team to five consecutive winning seasons and amassed 200 victories faster than any other Harding baseball coach according to sports information director, Scott Gooden.

The 2002 team won 32 games, including two victories in the Gulf South Conference Tournament and the 2003 team won a school record 34 games.

"I feel great about the success that we have had, experienced over the years," Fullerton said. "The thing that I am most proud of is that whatever we might have achieved has been done with quality young men who represent our school in a positive light."

Fullerton said he is looking forward to the success he will have with the Lady Bisons.

"I can't tell you how excited I am about the future of the women's basketball program and my new role as coach Kirby's assistant," Fullerton said. "The opportunity to go to work with a coach of his caliber and integrity every day and work toward a common goal of excellence is going to be a daily privilege."

Kirby said he was looking for three key characteristics when he was choosing an assistant. He said he was looking for a recruiter, a person with a strong work ethic, and someone who would be loyal to the program.

"I have the resources of a new-year head coach at my disposal," Kirby said. "We have talked basketball ever since I have known him, and I have no doubt that Coach Fullerton has the knowledge to help get this program where we want it to be."
Spring is by far the most beloved time of year to me: From the nicer and more tolerable weather to the twitter-pated squirrels and birds, there is just something incredibly fulfilling about being able to walk out of my dorm room in the morning without needing a scarf or coat to ward off the bitter cold.

However, spring not only brings beautiful weather and all of that mushy stuff, but it also brings something that will always make my heart go aflutter — a photography smorgasbord. The few friends of mine who still dare to walk with me while I have a camera in my hand (which is more often than not) have been recent witnesses to my growing excitement at all the “photo-riffic” opportunities that have been presenting themselves.

I’ve always been known to go to extreme lengths to get the perfect photo (for example, getting up at dawn to catch President David Burks on his morning run), but now, more than ever, I seem to have become the cause for many strange looks and turned heads while gallivanting around on my never-ending quest.

Recently, I even took a valiant leap into the lily pond and plodded around, happily snapping photos of some ducks while my few remaining friends just shook their heads. Last week not only brought hundreds of visitors to the campus, but also a Friday afternoon with the most glorious sunny weather imaginable. The front lawn was my playground that afternoon while I floated around from photo-op to photo-op getting more excited with each new shot that I encountered.

My biggest problem is probably that I can be mid-sentence in a conversation with a friend, or even a stranger for that matter, when I’ll spot something I just can’t let pass me by and take off at a dead sprint without a second thought about it. Whether while walking to class, driving around or just moseying my way along the sidewalks of campus, one can never be guaranteed I won’t go dashing off into the distance after spotting something even mildly intriguing.

It’s even gotten to the point that my friends call my cell phone every time they see something they think I would want to photograph. Just the other night someone called me up to report that the moon was in rare form, and they had thought I might want to take a look.

The saddest part about the entire situation is that after hanging up and thinking to myself how ridiculous it was for them to think I would want to photograph the moon, I actually grabbed my camera and set out to chase the moon. I try to convince myself that I’m not obsessed, but in reality, obsessed would be a mild way of putting it.

So folks, take this as a bit of warning: If you’re out enjoying a beautiful spring day and hear a shutter going off along with the other nature-oriented sounds, there’s a strong chance that I might just be lurking nearby.

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