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HARDING
UNIVERSITY

BISON *the*

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THEBISONNEWS.COM

SPORTS

Senior catcher Ryan Moody is a key returner for the men's baseball team this season. Page 1B



Chorus to perform with symphony

Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' to be sung with full orchestra, five other university vocal groups

by KYLIE AKINS student reporter

The Harding Chorus will be performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in Little Rock Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. and March 1 at 3 p.m.

Continuing a musical relationship more than a decade old, the chorus will participate in one of the ASO's last pieces in its Masterworks Series.

The chorus and ASO have a connection that benefits both students and the organization.

"It is good for our students because they get to perform these great masterworks in a wonderful circumstance," Dr. Cliff Ganus, director of Chorus and Chamber Singers, said.

The chorus has been rigorously training for the performance on a daily basis since the beginning of the spring semester.

"It's a very difficult piece," freshman Derek Molina said. "But we've put a lot of hard work into this performance, and it's already starting to sound great."

This symphony was a harmony of Beethoven's life work, with evidence of his plans for the piece found from very early in his career. When he discovered Friedrich Schiller's poem "The Ode to Joy" in 1793, Beethoven immediately desired to put it to music. It was his last symphony, completed in 1824, only three years before his death.

Ganus described the symphony as "a song that was composed in the aftermath of the American and French Revolutions, at the breakdown of the great empires and monarchies, in the wake of Rousseau who proclaimed that all of us were of one brotherhood, the natural man."

This revolutionary composition is spectacular in many ways, especially considering that Beethoven was completely deaf by the time he composed it. The Ninth was the first

"Our students ... get to perform these great masterworks in a wonderful circumstance."

Dr. Cliff Ganus director of chorus and chamber singers

symphony to incorporate a chorus, and its length, more than an hour long, was much longer than most works of that time.

At the premiere of the symphony, Beethoven attempted to give the orchestra a tempo. However, the conductor instructed them to just ignore the deaf composer. At the end of the performance, the contralto, Caroline Unger, saw that Beethoven was still conducting and turned him around to face the cheering audience.

David Itkin has been conductor of the ASO for 16 years. He is credited with expanding the orchestra's audience by introducing casual opportunities to enjoy the orchestra. He created the "Blue Jeans at the Symphony" night and "Classics Go Pop," which includes a segment where the audience can participate by playing "Name that Tune."

The Harding Chorus is one of six choruses singing with the orchestra, including choruses from the University of Arkansas, Hendrix College, Lyon College, Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University. Harding's adjunct oboe instructor, Gerry Gibson, is also involved with the performance as a principal oboist for the ASO.

The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is preceded by Milhaud's "La Création du monde, Op. 81." It recounts the African legend of the creation of the world through music with strong jazz influences.

The concert will be held in the Robinson Center Music Hall in Little Rock. Student tickets will be available an hour and a half before the performance for \$6.

Junior writes of skating career

by SARA SHABAN student reporter

College is often viewed as a venue where our futures are created through our dreams. But what is to be said of our past and the effect it has had on who we are and where we are going?

Junior Pete Davidson is one of the many students on campus who dared to make his dreams a reality even before he walked onto campus. Davidson made his way up and down ramps alongside great names in the skateboarding industry. Becoming a professional skateboarder and competing in some of the world's most intense competitions at just 17 years old, Davidson shared what his experience has meant and how it inspired him to write his very first book.

Davidson said he first fell in love with skateboarding when he was 12 years old and he saw a skateboard in the store and that it just made sense to him. For the next six years, he dedicated everything he had to the sport. Davidson's grandparents lived in California, more than an hour away from what he calls the Mecca of skateboarding. In Encinitas, Calif., the YMCA was where every professional vert skateboarder had hit the ground



photo courtesy of PETE DAVIDSON

Pete Davidson pulls a frontside slob air at a skate park in Encinitas, Calif., in 2005. Davidson first learned to skate in Encinitas at age 12 while visiting his grandparents for the summer.

skating. When he was 12 years old, Davidson went to visit his grandparents for the summer, and every day his grandfather drove him an hour and a half to the infamous skatepark. Every pro-skateboarder Davidson came to know, he met at this

park (including the most well-known skateboarder in the industry, Tony Hawk).

Between the ages 12 and 14, Davidson would go out to his California ramp every day where sponsors would watch his improvement. Sponsorships

began with a few boards here and a few shoes there, and it wasn't until bigger packages started arriving at his house that Davidson realized that his audience found him to be more than an amateur.

see SKATE page 3a

Groundhog Day



Ben Hughes, handler of the weather-predicting groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, holds Phil in the air after removing him from his stump at Gobbler's Knob on Groundhog Day, Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, in Punxsutawney, Pa. The Groundhog Club said Phil saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter.

New girls club signs charter

by JORDAN BAILEY assistant copy editor

Zeta Pi Zeta, the newest female social club, signed their charter Jan. 27. The signing of the charter was the latest step in a process that began in August.

The conception of this club has gone through many phases. The original constitution was drafted Aug. 31 with a proposed name of Nu Zeta Epsilon, but the group did not want to be confused with other clubs.

"We didn't want to interfere with anybody else's name too much," Jennifer Gibson, secretary of Zeta Pi Zeta, said.

Gibson said the members wanted to avoid mimicking any other clubs' names or characteristics. Another potential name was Theta Chi, which means helping hands, but that name is used by a national fraternity. Gibson said all names had to be typed into Google to prevent future copyright problems.

According to Gibson, the current name was a derivative of a suggestion made by David Collins, Vice President and Dean of Students. Collins suggested Zeta Phi Zeta, the name of a disbanded Harding club, but that name is now claimed by a national sorority, so the name became Zeta Pi Zeta.

Gibson was overseas at

HUF this fall, but she has been involved since her return this semester.

"There's a lot more thought that goes into it than most people think," Gibson said.

Logan Sheets, president of Zeta Pi Zeta, said she became involved with the process last fall when CAB Director Corey McEntyre and senior Coleman Yoakum told her of the need for a new girls' club, and decisions about details were made by majority vote. Sheets said the process differed from her expectations, and some of the decisions were difficult to make.

"Perhaps the most difficult part was satisfying everyone's opinions concerning the big issues, such as the club's name and colors," Sheets said.

Zeta Pi Zeta's colors are teal and champagne with scarlet details, and the club hymn is "Father God." The club symbol is the fleur de lis, the flower is a tulip and the verse is Romans 15:5-6. The club motto is "Bound by faith and love; grounded in service."

"I would like for people to know that Zeta Pi Zeta is a great group of girls," Sheets said. "We are very interested in playing active roles in the communities of both Searcy and Harding. And we are taking pledges in the fall."

Ben Stein to speak on campus

Actor, economist to be spring semester's first ASI lectureship speaker

by BILLIE PIETERS student reporter

Harding University's American Studies Institute is starting its 2009 Distinguished Lecture Series with political humorist, economist and actor Ben Stein. Stein will speak at Harding University's Benson Auditorium Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. A book signing will follow.

Director of the American Studies Institute Bob Reely booked Stein through the Young America's Foundation. The YAF has been inspiring thousands of young people to advance conservative ideas during their school years and throughout their lives using their campus lecture program. Speakers with the YAF include Dinesh D'Souza, Karl Rove and Ann Coulter.

Stein's topic has not been revealed.

"Whatever he chooses to

talk about means that he feels like that is what's important," Student Association President Michael Crouch said.

It is possible that he will be speaking about his latest movie "Expelled: No Intelligence Required." The film was the number one documentary of 2008.

"He's Ben Stein. He can talk about anything he wants to," Reely said.

"Expelled" addresses controversies defining the curriculum in America's schools, universities and institutions of science and our government's role in it. Stein interviews many scientists on both the Darwinist and the Intelligent Design sides.

Throughout the documentary, scientists express their views on the creation of life. Neo-Darwinist supporters believe that life is a result of a random, purposeless process. This is what

is taught in some U.S. schools as the only scientific explanation of how life originated.

This documentary gave the Intelligent Design theory a chance to challenge the Neo-Darwinian theory.

Many scientists, researchers and educators who go public on their views of creation are punished and often fired.

Since the release of "Expelled," many people have signed the Academic Freedom Petition supporting the freedom of speech and scientific inquiry in the classroom. Returning



Actor, economist and political humorist Ben Stein will speak Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

the freedom of speech to the classroom gives the theory of Intelligent Design and other theories the right to be taught.

New hallway added to music building

by CAROLINE DAMRON student reporter

Changes are happening constantly on campus: new students, new programs, new cafeteria food, even new buildings. Sometimes, however, the older things on campus need a little revamping. The Reynolds Center for Music and Communication is undergoing a minor change: a new hallway is being added. The hallway is being made to provide much-needed accessibility for music majors.

"Before the hallway, instrumentalists had to go through the band hall in order to get to their instruments," sophomore Austen Jenkins said. "The problem with this is ... if there was

a rehearsal going on in the band hall, the instrumentalists would have to interrupt whatever was going on."

With the addition of the hallway, students will be able to get their instruments from the storage room without interrupting rehearsals. The hallway will go from the main hallway directly into the storage room.

"Since most of the interior walls in the Reynolds are purely cosmetic, this hallway can be built without much interference to the rest of the building," Jenkins said.

Although the hallway is simple, it will allow for smoother days in the music section of the Reynolds.

TheNewsreel

Federal program aids college graduates

As of July 1, a new federal program will allow recent college graduates to ask the government to limit monthly payments on federal student loans to less than 15 percent of their income.

If a graduate earns less than a base budget of one and a half times the poverty level, they will not be required to pay anything toward their loans.

Those who have a low income and work in public-service jobs can earn complete debt forgiveness after 10 years of income-based payments. For someone who does not work in a public-service job but has a low income, 25 years of budget-based payments can also have any remaining debts erased.

"It will be an enormous help to many thousands of borrowers," Edie Irons, spokeswoman for the Project on Student Debt said.

Cheney fears future nuclear attacks

Former vice president Dick Cheney warned America Wednesday of a "high probability" that the U.S. would face a terrorist nuclear attack under the presidency of President Barack Obama.

"The ultimate threat to the country [is] a 9/11-type event where the terrorists are armed with something much more dangerous than an airline ticket and a box cutter — a nuclear weapon of a biological agent of some kind," Cheney told Politico.com from his new Virginia office.

Cheney said he fears the deaths of "hundreds of thousands of people" in a possible nuclear attack.

"We're not going to win this fight by turning the other cheek," Cheney added, describing the protection of America as a "tough, mean, dirty, nasty business."



Criticizing Obama's plan to shut down Guantanamo Bay, Cheney said he believed the Democratic Party is concerned with "reading the rights to an Al Qaeda terrorist," but should worry about the terrorists still at large.

"They're optimistic," he said. "We were [too]."

Doctor sentenced for 51 cent bribe

Indian courts sent a 75-year-old doctor to prison for a 51 cent bribe he accepted over 24 years ago, officials reported Wednesday.

Balgovind Prasad accepted the 25 rupee (51 cents) bribe in exchange for a fake medical certificate in 1985.

He was first convicted in 1992 with a jail term of one year, but he successfully appealed the sentence. On Tuesday, his one-year term was reduced to three months by a court in India's eastern state of Bihar. Although the bribe amount was small, police took Prasad into custody for being guilty of the crime.

Because the amount was minimal and so much time had passed, Prasad had hoped to get a reprieve from the slow-moving court.

HRT increases breast cancer risk

Research by the New England Journal of Medicine has shown evidence of a connection between hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and an elevated risk of breast cancer.

According to the research, when women stopped taking HRT, their breast cancer risk fell. The research is supported by UK experts, who said 1,000 annual breast cancer cases were probably stopped after a 50 percent drop in HRT.

While Californian researchers say their findings would provide debate-ending evidence over the link, other groups are more skeptical, saying that the fall in breast cancer could be a result of multiple factors.

Skeptics argue that the drop in the statistics could be due to a reduction in the number of mammograms that woman who halt HRT take.

However, the study fought critics by not only monitoring the 15,000 original women in the study, but also those not originally involved and who had not received advice on stopping treatments.



TheWindow



TAYLOR DURHAM | The Bison

Sophomores Jorge Sandoval and Cassie Swenson sign a giant "get well soon" poster for Robbie Shackelford, a child suffering from a dangerous illness. The posters were put out after Andrew Baker spoke in chapel Wednesday morning.

TheWatercooler

"It could easily eat something the size of a cow. A human would just be toast immediately."

— Jack Conrad, snake expert, after fossils of the largest snake ever discovered were found in northeastern Colombia. The colossal snake measured in at 42 to 45 feet and over 2,500 pounds.

"I no longer think about marriage."

— Nujood Ali, 10, after being asked if she wants to meet "Prince Charming" someday. Ali was forced into marriage with an allegedly abusive, much older Yemeni man, and was eventually granted a divorce.

"In the future, I will keep expressing myself."

— Rev. Gerhard Maria Wagner, the pick of Pope Benedict XVI's for auxiliary bishop in Linz, Austria, a promotion criticized by priests and church groups in the nation due to his previous suggestions that Hurricane Katrina was a punishment for the sin of New Orleans.

"In this economy, people will respond to 'free'."

— Nelson Marchioli, chief executive of Denny's, after giving away approximately 2 million free breakfasts, advertised the previous day during the Super Bowl.

"If it is necessary to deal another, even stronger blow, then at the right time ... an additional and stronger blow will be dealt."

— Ehud Barak, Israel's Defense minister, after Gaza fired the first rocket since the announcement of informal cease-fires.

"He was a charmer. And he really romanced me."

— Christina Raines, on life with Drew Peterson, a former police officer and suspect in the disappearance of his 23-year-old wife. Raines, a mother of two, said she left Peterson after she "opened her eyes."

TheScoop

Mark Your Calendars

Valentine's Day may get its own aisle in Walmart, but...

There are 68 other holidays in February that one can celebrate. Disclaimer: they may not all include chocolate.

February 6 will be the 74th anniversary of the day the game "Monopoly" went on sale in stores.

"I think it's wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly."

February 9 will be the 115th anniversary of Hershey's Chocolate.

"Nine out of 10 people like chocolate. The tenth person always lies."- John Q. Tullius, author and cartoonist.

February 14 is Ferris Wheel Day

"I see nothing in space as promising as the view from a Ferris wheel."- E.B. White, author of "Charlotte's Web."

February 17 is "Random Acts of Kindness" Day.

"If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."- Bob Hope, comedian and actor.

February 19 will be the 41st anniversary of the day "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" debuted.

"It's a wonderful day in the neighborhood."- Mr. Rogers.

TheNumber

191,000,000

—Approximate number of Valentine cards exchanged industry-wide each year, not including packaged children's cards designed for classroom exchanges.

Harding Revelation



photo by NOAH DARNELL | Petit Jean

Members of the Harding Revelation paintball team participate in a 3-on-3 practice session last weekend at Splat Action Paintball in Judsonia to prepare for upcoming tournaments.

Flu season misses Harding, but not all sicknesses absent

by REBECCA HARRELL student reporter

When fall changes into winter, students across campus all seem to come down with a variety of illnesses. These can range from stomach viruses to common colds to the flu, all of which mean that the infected student is sentenced to a couple of bad days ahead of him or her.

Because most students live in the dorms, these illnesses often spread rapidly through the living quarters. Door handles, phones, cups, keys and books all get contaminated with germs.

When students get sick, most turn to the nurses on campus, and many see Nurse Lynn McCarty. Since graduating from Harding in 1977, she has worked extensively throughout the United States and even overseas.

"I worked as a Department of Defense school nurse for the [Royal Air Force] in Feltwell, England," McCarty said.

After working in all those places, McCarty returned to

Harding and began caring for the students.

Since she is a veteran of treating diseases, McCarty has some advice on how to avoid getting sick.

"The best way to try to stay healthy is to get a good night's sleep," McCarty said. "You also need good hygiene, to wash your hands regularly and [to] try not to pick up viruses off of door knobs and pens. Basically, we are in what we consider the flu season, but we've been blessed with no documented cases. However, we have a lot of stomach viruses, colds and sniffles this time of year."

Senior Rachel Catrow has lived in the dorms since her freshman year and has only been sick twice.

"I usually get seven to eight hours of sleep every night, and I wash my hands like a maniac because the dorm is such a germ place," Catrow said.

However, not everyone is as lucky as Catrow. Senior Becky Townsend said she is just the opposite.

"I can't count how many times I've been sick throughout my college career, but just lately I've come down with something, and it feels like my body just can't beat it," Townsend said. "I've taken medicines, vitamins, everything. It's just not working."

Catrow, like McCarty, said she has some advice of her own on how to avoid getting sick.

"I don't sleep with my room temperature very low, and I always have something on my feet," Catrow said. "If my feet get cold, my whole body does, and then that can lead to a person getting sick easier. Furthermore, I try to eat really well. I think a lot of things contribute to a person staying healthy. I just do little things along the way and overall, I would say that they help me considerably."

As the flu season approaches its end in the weeks ahead, there is hope that it will not hit Harding at all. With spring comes the chance that students across campus, like Townsend, can get over whatever illnesses are ailing them.

Israeli guide to present talk

by BLAKE MATHEWS news editor

Dr. Yossi Paz, an Israeli archeologist and veteran tour guide for the Harding University in Greece program, will visit Harding next week to share his insights into Middle Eastern culture and history.

An Israeli Jew by birth, Paz studied archeology and anthropology in Rome, earning his Ph.D. in 1996. Paz himself is not religious, but he has done extensive research on a number of different faiths, including Christianity. In addition to his work as a tour guide, Paz lectures at the Open University in Tel Aviv and serves as an academic advisor for Israeli radio programs.

His relationship with Harding began in the 1990s when students first visited Israel as part of the HUG program.

Dr. Monte Cox, Dean of the College of Bible and Religion, saw Paz in action when he began taking groups in 2005. Since then, Cox said, Paz has been his "go-to guy" when it comes to tours of the Holy Land.

What makes Paz such a hit with students, according to Cox, is that he has a "good feel for what students would be interested in."

"Students get tired of one more pile of rocks," Cox said.

"He's a rebel," junior Stephanie Frazier, who met Paz last summer, said. "Rules didn't really matter at all to him."

She said Paz often takes students off the beaten path and leads them to less-conventional tourist sites, whether he has the proper clearance or not.

Many of the memorable moments from Paz's tours

involve his flute, which he travels with and plays as part of his presentations. Cox recounted a story in which Paz led a group to the Mount of Beatitudes, which some believe is the place where Jesus was almost thrown off a cliff by an angry mob. Standing on the edge of the cliff, Paz produced his flute and played for the students a tune related to the story.

When Paz comes to Harding this Sunday, it will be at the invite of the L.C. Sears Collegiate Seminar Series. The College of Bible and Religion and the Society of Near Eastern Archeology are co-sponsoring his visit.

Paz will give his main lecture, titled "Digging Up Jerusalem: Recent Excavations In and Around the Holy City," Monday at 7 p.m. in McInteer 150. For the rest of his visit, which lasts until Thursday, Paz will speak for classes in the history, political science and Bible departments. Cox would not specify which classes Paz would be visiting and said that he was "trying to keep it small and word-of-mouth."

Cox said he did not know specifically what Paz would be speaking about, though he speculated that he would touch on current conflicts between Israel and Palestine. Like most Israelis, Paz served with the Israeli Army for a time, and he retains his status as a reservist. Cox said regardless of that affiliation, he believes that Paz "presents a pretty balanced perspective on the whole conflict."

Former HUG students and faculty are encouraged to come to the Sears Honors House Sunday at 8 p.m. for an informal reunion, which Paz will attend.

SKATE: Book to detail inner workings of skating industry, what works, does not

CONTINUED from page 1a

The time had come for Davidson to follow his dream all the way out to the west coast, and he and his mother left their Arkansas home. They moved to California when he was 16, and he eventually became a pro at 17. Davidson was invited to the X-Games two years in a row but was unable to compete because he was injured. Davidson was more involved in progressive skateboarding (Vert Skateboarding) than competition.

"[Competition] never really mattered to me," Davidson said. "I just wanted to see what was possible [...] people make it out like I was Tony Hawk. I was a 17-year-old kid trying to follow his dream."

"I got to hang out with glamorous people, but it's a job. You wake up, eat breakfast, meet with your manager, skate for four hours, eat dinner, skate a private ramp, hoping you make a trick so you can pay for rent next month. That's what it means to be a pro-skater."

While Davidson was at the

height of his career, doing things that no skateboarder has done, he eventually decided to leave the industry and retired at 18.

"I saw my life and the man I wanted to be and I saw where my life was going and what I would become," Davidson said. "And as much as I loved skating and still love it, one: I had a different path to follow; and two: I knew I would never become the man I wanted to be if I stayed there."

Davidson said this was the hardest decision that he has ever made in his life but that it was the right decision. The experience involving both the evil and the good and the guys he met along the way led him to write a book.

In the spring of 2008, Davidson spent a semester at Harding University's campus in Greece, and during his time there, he came across an article on the ESPN website that announced the retraction of vert skateboarding from the X-Games. Davidson said he was furious and immediately started writing in his Moleskine and didn't stop writing until this

past October.

The book, "Reforming a Counter-Culture: The Flaws and Fallacies of the Skateboarding Industry and How to Fix Them" focuses on what is wrong with skating, what is working, how to fix what isn't working and how to improve the things that are. While the book isn't a memoir, he poured his experiences, religious beliefs and insider information that no one in the skateboarding industry has dared to release into it. Davidson shares a few of the secrets behind the sport. The book is intended for skateboarders, their parents and anyone who is interested in seeing the sport from the inside out.

"It's not a tell-all book. I'm not telling what Tony Hawk does on the weekends," Davidson said.

A huge name in the skateboarding industry and one of Davidson's mentors, Tony Magnusson (founder and owner of Osirus shoes) agreed to write the forward for the book. Book Surge, the Amazon-owned

publisher, is very excited about what is to come from this piece of work.

"This book has never been written before, especially from someone on the inside," Davidson said. "They would lose their jobs. I'm not known to be passive. I'll praise them when they're right. When they do something wrong, I'll let everyone know. I want it to start a dialogue in the skateboarding industry. If I don't get hate mail, I'll be deeply offended."

Davidson said he plans to write more books in the future telling stories about skaters and how they have affected many people's lives for better. Davidson has made it a goal to prove that skateboarding goes beyond the "punk kid" and "misfit" stereotype.

"Nobody has the audacity to talk about being a good man anymore, and that's exactly what I write about," Davidson said.

Davidson's book makes its debut in mid to late March. You can find it on amazon.com, in local bookstores and in the Harding bookstore.

Band commission to honor founder

by NICK SMELSER student reporter

Dr. Mike Chance, director of the wind ensemble, and the band alumni have commissioned a piece of music to be written in honor of Dr. George Baggett, the founder of the wind ensemble at Harding. Baggett started what has become a fine program. Now, the wind ensemble wants to thank him.

The Harding Wind Ensemble will be premiering the new piece of music, entitled "Brilliant Legacy", in honor of Baggett. The dedication on the piece reads, "Commissioned by the Harding University Band alumni and friends in honor of the 80th birthday of Dr. G. E. Baggett, Professor of Music and first director of Bands at Harding University."

This piece is the first commission the wind ensemble at Harding has ever had written. Chance said he wants it to become a habit.

"We, as the Wind Ensemble, must not only perform great music," Chance said. "We must also play a part in the development of new and greater music."

Charles Booker, the director of bands at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, is writing the

piece. He is the ex-staff arranger for the U.S. Army Band.

The piece has three movements. The first segment is entitled "Brother" and is centered on Baggett himself. The second movement, entitled "Home", is a fantasia built around the Harding University Alma Mater and will feature the Harding University Chorus. The final movement is called "Swing" and is based on a melody that Baggett used to whistle as he went about his day, while also painting a picture of the iconic Harding swings that are sprinkled throughout the campus.

Though the performers in the wind ensemble have yet to begin rehearsing the piece, some have said they feel it is a fitting tribute.

"Dr. Baggett has been a big part of the department, even though he no longer teaches here," Sarah Yarnell, a junior music major, said. "He still comes to recitals, and we all know who he is, so it's good that we're doing something to show him how much we appreciate his continued support."

The piece will be premiered April 23 in the Administration Auditorium at 7 p.m. Baggett is planning to attend the premiere.

Organic garden to build community

by PENELOPE CRONK student reporter

HUmanity's organic community garden is gearing up after their first survey meeting Monday, Jan. 26.

"This project was designed to build community and to get people outside together," sophomore Josh Nason said.

The plot that will be gardened is opposite Harding Academy, by the rugby fields. It is 55 by 278 feet and will be broken into 70 10-by-20 foot plots that will be for sale to individual students or groups of students for \$20 a plot. The proceeds will go towards buying seeds and tools for the garden. The remaining land that is not purchased will be designed as an experiment for those who wish to one day participate in missions, gardening in countries with fewer resources.

"It's a great way to research different techniques for when I go to Africa this summer," senior Randall Gabriel said.

They are also receiving help from the Physical Resources Department, who will be in to till the land as soon as the weather permits, and professors Joe Brumfield and Scott

Adair, who will be providing organic fertilizer in the form of manure from their farms. Aramark will also be involved in the effort by donating all of its organic waste to be used for compost.

The project began as brainstorming between Gabriel and Zach Seagle, who soon recruited help from Adam Clement, Nason and Jonathan Sims. They researched other universities that had similar programs and then proposed the idea to Harding President Dr. David Burks, who gave it the thumbs up.

They then took the idea to Danny DeRamus from Physical Resources, who said he was excited to get involved, and George Strachan from Aramark.

Periodic Garden Orientation Workshops for instruction will be held, and the semester will conclude with a harvest and a farmers' market on the front lawn.

"A lot of us do want to go overseas, and this would be practice ... gardening is a universal thing," Seagle said.

Those interested in joining this project can join the Facebook group "Harding Community GARDEN!!!"

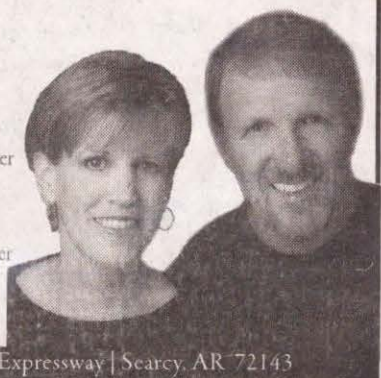
Name That Baby!



This professor is known for his interesting collection of hats

You could win a \$10 Sonic card; e-mail your guess to phil@hoggardteam.com

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INFORMATION

The Bison is a campus newspaper, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The Bison recognizes its responsibility to be accurate and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding exists. It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards and are no more than 300 words in length. Signed columns appearing in the Bison are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board. The Bison is published by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149. Subscription rate: \$10 per year. Periodical postage (USPS 577600) paid at Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University Box 11192, Searcy, AR 72149-0001.

LETTER POLICY

The Bison welcomes your views on issues of interest to the Harding community. Letters must be signed, contain a phone number for verification and be no more than 300 words. The Bison reserves the right to edit letters for style, clarity and brevity. Letters to the editor may be submitted to HU Box 11192.



A Trout By Any Other Name

I was afraid that the target for this week's column might be too easy, but that has never stopped me before. You may have heard that recently, the activist organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has come up with a new idea to discourage Americans from eating fish. The group wants to coin a new, more lovable name for the cold-blooded aquatic animals, so they have proposed the name "sea kittens." That's right, sea kittens.

The theory is that consumers don't feel bad eating fish because they have no affection for the slimy, scaly swimmers. Therefore, with a new name that conjures up images of fluffiness, purring and shredded living room drapes, PETA hopes that fish will be protected by a barrier reef of fuzzy thoughts that will steer consumers hungry for ocean fare away from flounder and toward eating seaweed and such.

And Red Lobster is not the only culprit. According to PETA, if we develop a kinder, cuddlier name for fish, "fewer of these gentle animals would be violently killed for food, painfully hooked for 'sport' or cruelly confined to aquariums." I suspect that playing the old card game, "Go Fish" is similarly frowned upon, and that the phrase "That smells fishy to me" is tantamount to slander. I hear PETA even has a lawsuit against Abe Vigoda, but that may be a red herring.

I am not a fan of cruelty to animals, so I appreciate PETA's



MICHAEL CLAXTON

Guest Space

"Whoever was in charge of the brainstorming session that resulted in 'sea kittens' needs to be filleted, broiled and squirted with lemon juice."

overall mission. And while I don't agree with the fundamental vegetarian assumption that animals should not be eaten, I respect the right of those who do feel this way to promote their viewpoint. But it is impossible not to ridicule this wrong-headed PR move. Whoever was in charge of the brainstorming session that resulted in "sea kittens" needs to be filleted, broiled and squirted with lemon juice.

Think of the domino effect this renaming trend could have. Would cows become "farm puppies"? Could we call pigs "oink bunnies"? Would a venison sandwich be a "Bambi burger"? Want to stop folks from eating butterfly shrimp? Just drop the word "shrimp" and see if that doesn't make consumers' hearts well up three sizes with affection for the poor prawns. And certainly no one would ever eat a corn dog again if the package read, "Gerbil on a stick."

Would consumers shy away from chicken nuggets if they were called

"chick puffs"? Actually, I think that using the technical term — "deep-fried-hydrogenated-poultry-gristle" would more effectively send fast food patrons to the salad bar.

But I have a better solution to this problem. Fish need an extreme makeover. Don't just change the name. Change the image. We need make-up experts, plastic sturgeons, spawn doctors and maybe even someone from HGTV. If fish have any chance of warming the hearts of sappy Americans, they need pointy ears, moist noses, fuzz implants and collagen-filled pouty lips. They need to stop eating worms, stop freaking people out with those buggy eyes and start breathing like normal pets — tongue out and gills closed. The goal should be for fish to look adorable on Hallmark cards.

And something must be done about the smell. Maybe a little Aqua Velva? Or English Channel Number 5? I suggest Ocean Spray, with just a touch of cranberry scent.

Of course, there is one new name that would at least slow down tuna consumption. If we could only convince StarKist to call its product "Peanut Butter of the Sea," that would make folks think twice these days. Especially if it came with jellyfish.

MICHAEL CLAXTON is an assistant professor of English and a frequent contributor to the Bison and may be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.



JEREMY WATSON

Elementary, My Dear

2009's Top Super Bowl Commercials

It's common knowledge that many, many people tune in to the Super Bowl only for the advertisements. I don't follow football, but I can enjoy watching a good game every once in a while, and the Super Bowl delivered (a 100-yard run for a touchdown after an interception? Oh yes). But if it were not for the Super Bowl party I attended, I think I probably would have just caught the commercials on the Internet later, as well as highlight plays like that interception and the last touchdown of the game. The game was enjoyable; the half-time show was enjoyable (except for Bruce Springsteen's power slide — anyone else feel a little violated afterwards?); the commercials, however, were the real attraction.

As we watched the game, people were discussing both the game and other things, doing stuff on their computers, getting snacks or off in another room, but as soon as someone yelled "Commercials!" a hush fell, and everyone gathered around the TV. I thought I would share a few of my favorite advertisements from one of America's favorite holidays.

Mean Troy — A commercial that can't be ignored is Coca-Cola's remake of one of the most iconic commercials of all time: the 1979 "Mean Joe Greene" commercial, in which the football player's heart is melted by a kid with a bottle of Coke. This one was a bit different, however, and ended not with the Steelers' Troy Polamalu tossing the boy his jersey, but with him ripping the shirt off an accountant and tossing him that. Less touching, perhaps, but much more humorous.

Weird Commercials — This isn't one specific commercial, but more a trend that seemed to appear in the majority of advertisements during the Super Bowl. Every company appears to be trying to make their commercial the most memorable, so we were shown stranger and stranger things, lending the ads a decidedly postmodern feel as they often had nothing to do with the product they were advertising. Ballet-dancing football players and lizards (in 3D!), a cartoon tiger with a pet pigeon looking on in approval as a woman sics a lot of other pigeons on another woman, a boy genius who has trouble buying a car, Conan O'Brien shirtless in a vest, shiny pants and bunny ears ... these are just the tip of the iceberg, or rather, the entrance to the rabbit hole. Commercials everywhere are becoming odder in an attempt to stick in viewers' minds that much longer, but it seemed the Super Bowl's ads took it to another level.

Doritos — The Doritos ads were my favorite this year, especially the crystal ball one. When I first saw it, I was not expecting the guy to throw a snow globe through the front of a vending machine, which made it that much funnier. The latter half of the commercial was a bit juvenile, but it did make me chuckle. The "The Power of the Crunch" commercial was overall more humorous to me, even though I laughed more at the snow globe. Any commercial that ends with a guy getting hit by a bus I find pretty funny; maybe it's just a sign of the times (I guess I just ruined both of these for people who haven't seen them).

I've had years where I really got into the game, picking a team and rooting for them throughout; I've had years that I've not watched the Super Bowl at all; I've had years like this one that I would just watch with a few friends in a dorm; the common string throughout them, though, is the commercials. It's interesting to me to see people who normally despise commercials (myself included) making sure they watch each and every one and even going online later to watch some again. I guess it's just part of the purely American experience that is the Super Bowl.

JEREMY WATSON serves as the editor in chief for the 2008-2009 Bison. He may be contacted at jwatson@harding.edu

Do Not Disturb: The Passion Pockets

They lurk in the shadows. They call the darkness their home. They are nocturnal beings running from the light.

Who am I talking about? Harding couples.

You've seen them around. I know you have. They are bound by Harding's non-coed rules, so they have to find somewhere to spoon; and frankly, they have no shame. Here is a small list of the types of couples you've probably encountered on campus.

1. The hall monitors — I can't count the number of times I've walked out of the Bison office late at night and seen the glow of a computer monitor illuminating the hallway. These couples find nooks and crannies to cuddle in, and they act like you're intruding on them when you walk by like a normal person.

These are the types of couples that can be the scariest, as their locations are not always given away by the glow of their computer screens as they watch movies. There is a good chance that they are just necking in the privacy of their own little spot in the hallway, so you won't see them until it's too late. Trust me. It's not pretty.

2. The lawn-sitters — Have you ever been walking through the middle of campus at night and almost tripped over two shameless



BRANDON HIGGINS

Guest Space

humans? I have. These are the lawn-sitters. Their super power is that of uncanny camouflage. They are well-trained in the art of blending into their surroundings as they play big-spoon-little-spoon.

And if you do encounter this type of couple, don't think for one second that they are going to get out of your way. It's their world, and you're just living in it. From now on, walk through the front lawn as if it were a mine field. Be cautious.

3. The obscure chapel couples — If you think you are going to head to the Cone Chapel for a Bible study, beware. Knock before you enter, for there may be a couple speaking in tongues of a different kind behind the door. I've seen it. It's not that awesome.

These are usually the same couples who have no shame necking in chapel in the mornings; in fact, they love the smell of an old church of Christ so much that they have to go into overtime in the different chapels on campus. There's just something about the smell of old upholstery and the sight of a stained-glass window that just sets these folks on fire.

4. Library lovers — Do you smell that? It's the smell of coffee and copy machines, coupled with the tapping of laptop keys. To these kinds of couples, these fragrances and sounds are the pheromones and percussions that cause them to lose themselves in each others' eyes.

Isn't it romantic when you are looking for a study room in the library and the windows are fogged up like those of a car at Berryhill Park? Of course it is.

Or how about when you're trying to find a study room and there is a piece of cardboard blocking the window? If you didn't know what that was, it's a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Before you know it, there will be couples lobbying for blinds to be installed on these doors so they can have their privacy. Pardon us conservative folks for thinking you're weird. We know we're out of line for even thinking about coming into your little passion pad.

There you have it. This is a small guide for those of you wanting to avoid the awkwardness of encountering hicky-installing couples. The best advice I can give you is to stay away from their natural habitats. Good luck.

You'll need it.

Brandon Higgins is a guest contributor to the Bison and may be contacted at bhiggins@harding.edu

If you are interested in writing an opinion column, contact Ashton Reely at areely@harding.edu.



ASHTON REELY

Off the Soapbox

The Buffet Blues

I am not a fan of buffets. The funhouse mirrors — set up to make the food supply look endless — along with the constant bumping and nudging from hungry strangers is enough to ruin the whole experience for me.

As you head for the sweet and sour chicken, you are forced into this relentless do-si-do dance routine with Bubba John Jenkins, who is trying to simultaneously get in line for the chow mein. And let us not forget the patience that is required as you wait for the sweet little old lady in front of you to wrestle with the tongs and grab each green bean individually as if she is fishing for a plush toy in "The Claw" arcade game.

This phobia is very inconvenient when you are born into a family of buffet lovers. Almost every Sunday, without fail, we head to New China Buffet for lunch. A few moments of silent meditation, an inner pep talk and a deep breath is all I need to get my feet moving toward the crowds of hungry people — who all seem to agree that 25 different types of meat constitutes a light lunch.

A few Sundays ago, I was minding my own buffet business when the dreaded do-si-do began with an older man. We were, for about 15 seconds it seemed, mirror images of each other. I would step right. He would still be in front of me. I would change directions — so would he.

A few teeth showed as he creepily grinned at me, as if he was enjoying this game. Finally, in my Arkansas drawl, I politely said, "Scuse me sir," as I forced myself around him and headed for the rice. I could feel his eyes follow me as I made my way through the different lines. Suddenly — I felt a hand on my arm and turned to see my dear mullet-wearing friend.

My heart stopped for a moment. "Hey, awallago (a while ago), did you say ... 'Squeeze me?'" he taunted. The laugh. The wink. My world went black. Was this really happening to me? The buffet was only \$8.00 — this was way more than I bargained for.

I try to convince my family that menu restaurants cost more for a reason. Yes, Dad — buffets allow you to combine any selection of food on your plate. A cornucopia of colors, your plate can host cinnamon rolls next to corn-on-the-cob or macaroni and cheese that blends in with your pudding. Menu restaurants, however, offer comfort and security.

I like nothing more than sliding into a booth and knowing that no one can touch me, accuse me of wanting to be squeezed or awkwardly dance with me as we try to change lines.

A waiter or waitress in a classy black outfit will cheerfully greet me with his or her name as they pour my water; I breathe a sigh of relief because I am free of the soda fountain disaster that buffets offer. Why do I always get behind the kid mixing all of the sodas together to make a "graveyard" or "suicide" concoction?

My brother, a football player, commented the other day that he likes the buffet atmosphere because it is an understood rule that you can run into people and cut in front of them as long as you apologize. This must be an unspoken, testosterone-driven law of buffet behavior. I, on the other hand, do not like to risk my life for green jello — despite its wiggly goodness.

Knights in shining armor, riding up on white stallions, are so overrated. Girls aren't in a deep sleep, needing true love's kiss to wake them up. Their hair isn't hanging down from the top of a tower. Buffets are the way to go. Let your girl loose at Ryan's, and swoop in and save her from the scary masses. We lack the killer instinct to survive in the buffet world. On second thought, ride up in your '95 white Honda Accord and take her to Docs Grill or Colton's — even Arby's will put her at ease.

ASHTON REELY is the opinions editor for the Bison and can be contacted at areely@harding.edu.

Nothing Is Beyond Reconciliation



SARAH KYLE

Guest Space

my life. But how does that help anything? What do those walls do for me?

Nothing. Nada. Zilch. In fact, they do less than that: they're crippling. Those walls are my own personal excuse to avoid really living life.

You see there's a difference between existing and living. Life is more than survival; it's more than just getting up everyday, eating, working, studying and then going back to bed just to wake up and do it all over again.

Life is about ... well, that's just it. Life is about life and living it to the fullest. My freshman year of college, I received this letter from a friend, and a couple phrases really stuck out to me.

"Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; try to be who you really are. Because life is short and often only gives one chance to do things ... the most splendid future will always depend upon the necessity to release your past. You cannot move forward in life unless you learn from your mistakes and

move on."

And how true is that? What is life if we just exist, if we just survive? If we just give up when something doesn't go the way we want it to or when someone hurts us and it seems like too much?

I've got news for you. Nothing we do to each other is as bad as what we did to Christ. Imagine him hanging on that cross, taking on the pain and sin and punishment of every single one of us. And still, he said "Father, forgive them."

How, after our Savior did something so great and forgiving, do we think that we have any right to just give up on our brothers and sisters, our friends ... even our enemies?

It is our duty, our calling, to stand apart from this world, to forgive the unforgivable ... to let down our walls and really love someone, because if we don't, we're never going to be able to live.

Sure, it may be hard to get to the point where you can take down those walls, but if everything were always handed to us, how would we learn to live? I was once told that enduring trials is a lot like a butterfly struggling out of its cocoon; if you try to help it, you're ruining its chance for survival. That desperate struggle to escape the cocoon, and for us to let down our walls, is what gives

the butterfly, and us, the strength to survive and thrive.

And as for friendships, would they really be as wonderful if they didn't come with both good and bad? I've found that it's in the midst of struggle, when all we thought we were — is being stripped away or challenged, that we discover who we truly are and what really matters in life. Struggles are never purposeless; friendships can never be truly over, because God gives it purpose. He creates a silver lining in everything.

When we pray for patience or wisdom, what does God give us? More opportunities and situations in which to learn those things. When we pray for strong friendships, maybe he also gives us more hurdles to strengthen those friendships.

So my friends, next time you find yourself at that seemingly unequivocal dead end of camaraderie, please stop to think before you call it quits. Because I now believe that nothing is as beautiful as the butterfly that steps out of that cocoon. And nothing, not a single thing, is beyond reconciliation.

SARAH KYLE is a guest contributor to the Bison and may be contacted at skyle@harding.edu

Basic Advice Toward A 'Green' Routine



SAMANTHA HOLSCHBACH

Green Without Envy

Though some of my actions already coincide with an environmental ethic, others scream for improvement.

Thus, I've decided to detail here my conservation practices, the actions I'm currently improving and my habits that, alas, need a serious makeover: a green facelift, if you will, that softens my carbon footprint. My hope is that you will also scrutinize your lifestyle for the greener, examining and keeping what's good while ousting what's wasteful.

Don't let the vampires bite: unplug appliances. Even when appliances like microwave ovens are not in use, they are often still sucking electricity imperceptibly in the "standby mode" when plugged in. As a result, lately I've been trying to unplug my cell phone charger, coffee maker and printer immediately after use. Though as a dorm resident I'm not paying an energy bill that coincides with my use, these actions save the university money and create good habits for when I later must pay for direct electricity consumption. I encourage you to note which appliances you have that can be unplugged when not in use, and then do just that — unplug them.

Paper or plastic? Ideally, try neither. Petroleum-based plastic

bags are notorious environmental hindrances, a symbol of waste in countries that ban them. Such bags photodegrade, which means they deteriorate into petro-polymers, smaller bits of toxins that can wreak havoc upon entering the food chain. In their whole state, plastic bags strangle animals and pollute waterways. Thus, if you must use plastic bags, give them multiple uses as garbage bags, lunch bags or rain covers on your bike seats. However, if you accumulate too many plastic bags, your ultimate best bet is to acquire cloth bags, which negate the use of plastic bags altogether. Many stores sell durable cloth bags for just a few dollars, while others offer plain bags just begging for creative types to decorate them. I own a ChicoBag found at www.chicobag.com that can be stuffed within an attached stuff-sack, thereby reducing the bag's size so that it can fit within a pocket. I keep this in my purse as a mainstay for when I forget to bring my other tote bags to the store, which occurs on more occasions than I'd like.

Don't go chasing waterfalls; reduce them. I must confess: as a greenie, I fail when the duration of my delightfully, perhaps ridiculously long (averaging 10-15 minutes) shower sessions are scrutinized. For every extra minute I spend singing Josh Groban songs under the showerhead, as many as five to seven gallons of warm water enter the drain, a wasteful action considering the expensive energy needed to clean

water. To reduce my water use, I recently bought a kitchen timer to keep track of time. Not only does my timer serve as a fun competition (i.e. can I beat my shortest record?), I can increase my sleep time by a few minutes, and that's certainly worth conserving. You, too, can follow suit when you're sans a suit.

Meat my friend, Tofu. Even what we choose to eat either helps or harms the environment. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reports that 18 percent of the world's total greenhouse gases is attributable to livestock production. Other animals like chickens, sheep, pigs — really, the whole gamut of farm animals — produce methane when digesting, a chemical compound that traps heat 23 times better than carbon dioxide. In lieu of these facts, it would behoove earth-lovers to perhaps cut down on meat consumption. Though I profess to be a venisonarian, a concept of my own conception (one whose protein source of choice is venison, preferably in steak form smothered in barbecue sauce), I have consciously chosen to eat less meat, opting for more vegetarian entrees like tofu or vegetable lasagna when in the cafeteria. Even transitioning from eating three meat meals per day to one or two does its part in staving off global warming.

SAM HOLSCHBACH is the features editor of the Bison and may be contacted at sholschb@harding.edu

Marital Love Is Forever, Diamonds Are Not

I feel compelled to address the issue of engagement rings — or should I say "ring ceremonies" — occur. What is the first thing that comes to mind? After all, the emphasis is already on the ring. What is the first thing your girl friend asks you after an acquaintance recently becomes engaged? If it's "Did you see the size of her rock?", then this article is all the more worthy to read.

First of all, I believe that the engagement ring has lost its true meaning in this day and time. I have found most people make the biggest deal about the "rock." Is it diamonds? Is it really expensive? How big is the rock? And we all know, the bigger the rock is, the more meaning and love there is behind it. Wrong! Cut size, style and worth should have nothing to do with becoming engaged! For some people it does, but this is not what engagement should ever be about. The real issue here is love. I believe engagements should not even be about the ring because today it has become such a materialistic product to mankind everywhere.

The definition of engagement ring is "a ring, often a diamond, given by a man to his fiancée at the time of their engagement as a token of their betrothal." Even the definition mentions the word diamond because



MARYCAITLIN TANKSLEY

Guest Space

this is what is expected! This is not to say that every woman in the world or even at Harding only craves diamonds or an expensive ring. However, I have found that many ladies here at Harding are way too obsessed with the actual ring rather than the engagement. The focus should always be on a huge life-long commitment two people chose to make, never the carat, cut, clarity or cost of the ring.

The word "engaged" means "pledged to be married." Is the pledge of marriage without meaning if there is a white gold band with no diamond? Do we even need a ring to proclaim our engagement? History will even tell you that the engagement ring was created for a money making market.

According to NationMaster.com, "The diamond engagement ring did not become the standard it is considered today until after an extensive marketing campaign by De Beers in the middle of the 20th century, which came to include one of the most famous advertising

slogans of the 20th century: 'A Diamond is Forever.'"

We are not even required to have a ring, but it is a tradition that we as Americans follow. By having an engagement ring, it should make a statement about your decision to commit to the one you love for the rest of your life. It seems today, though, engagement rings are simply to show how "lucky" or "loved" you are due to its size, cut and worth. Honestly, isn't the pledge enough? Usually, it seems it is not.

That being said, it saddens me when women on this campus can be overheard claiming their ring is not good enough and they will one day exchange it for something more expensive or something with a little more "bling." How disrespectful is that to the fiancée? As ladies, we need to respect the men in our lives who work extremely hard to present us with such a token of commitment.

Being a woman, I will admit when the day of my engagement comes, I will be presented with a ring, and I will be excited. I can assure you that it will not be because of the ring. I will be excited because I will be in the beginning stages of planning the rest of my life with the one I love. It's not about the diamonds and jewels, ladies! And men, do not let a woman convince you otherwise. It is about the rest of your life and your future with the one you are

meant to be with. Just because you have a small-cut diamond, a huge diamond or nothing at all, it does not imply how seriously you are going to take your marriage or how much love you have. You alone with God's help control how your marriage will be. End of story.

As Christians, we should focus on how God will play a role in our marriage and not the diamond on our rings. In God, we should be secure in our marriages and rely on His word to pull us through the difficulties that we are going to face during marriage. A diamond cannot save a marriage, but hard work and God can.


Nowhere in the Bible does it say that love equals a diamond. Unfortunately, the slogan "Diamonds are forever" has stuck and too many people in this world live by it. We live too much by materialistic things, and some of us always will even when it comes down to one of the biggest decisions in our lives. I challenge you not to live by these silly traditions but by the Word; the Word that has always been true. How about no more "ring ceremonies," Harding? Instead, let's have more engagement ceremonies, because love is forever; diamonds are not.

MARYCAITLIN TANKSLEY is a guest contributor to the Bison and may be contacted at mtanksle@harding.edu

Spread the love this Valentine's Day



LET'S SHARE SOME
C-A-M-A-R-A-D-E-R-I-E
THIS
VALENTINE'S DAY!



Valentine,
Let's take a walk
together....
Forever



Roses are
red,
Violets are
blue,
The campus
always floods,
As does
my heart
for YOU!

TO:
FROM:



DEAR VALENTINE,
I'M NUTS FOR YOU!




*Love Always,
The Bison*

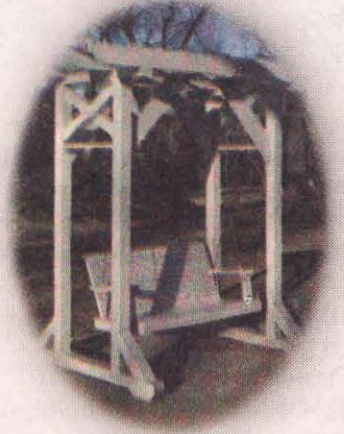
*Hi from
the heart,
Valentine!*



May God bless
you this
Valentine's Day!
1 Cor 13



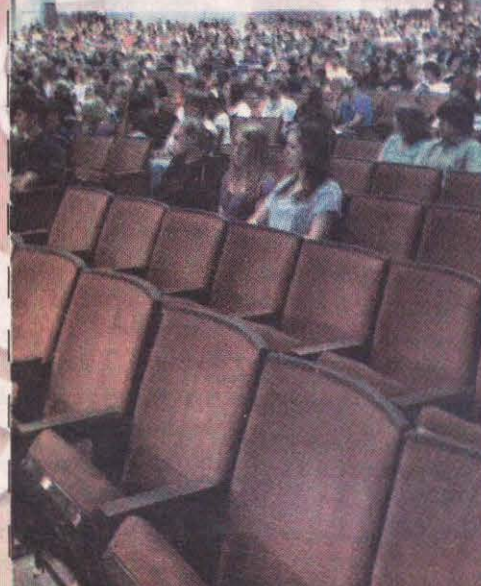
To: _____
From: _____



Marry Me?

Yes No

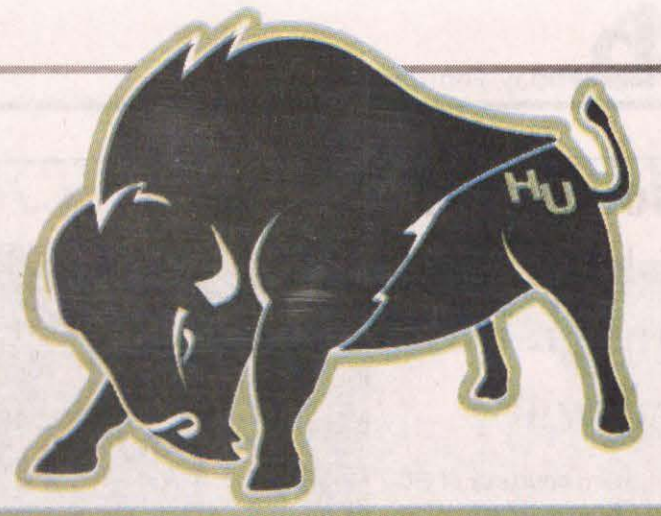
Meet me at
Row _____
Seat _____
Love,
Your Secret Admirer



SECTION B

BISON

the



February 6, 2009

Bisons make opening pitch

by ROBERTO MCGOWAN
student reporter

The Bison baseball team opened the season ranked fourth in the Gulf South Conference and are optimistic of a strong close.

Coming into his fourth season, Head Coach Patrick McGaha said he feels good about this season. In 2008, McGaha led the Bisons to their second-ever appearance in the GSC Tournament.

"Each year has been a stepping stone, and I hope the experience will lead to a tournament championship," McGaha said.

When asked about the loss of Aaron Roberts, who led last year's team in batting average, slugging percentage, runs scored, hits, RBIs, doubles, triples and homeruns, McGaha said Roberts was a very good hitter, but that he feels they signed enough players to fill his role.

"A lot of times, when you lose a good player, the hungrier players step up," McGaha said.

McGaha said he feels the team chemistry is really up from last season: the guys like being around each other and everyone is on the same page.

Assistant Coach Brent Haring is in his second year, and he said he feels like this year's team is one of the strongest recruiting classes in Harding University history.

Junior pitcher Josh Creveling, a transfer from Western Nevada College, joined the experience of a junior college world series. Creveling ended last season with a 2-2 record and a 2.21 ERA.

Creveling said he really wants to win the GSC, and he thinks they have the team to do it.

"This is the most team chemistry I have ever seen," Creveling said.

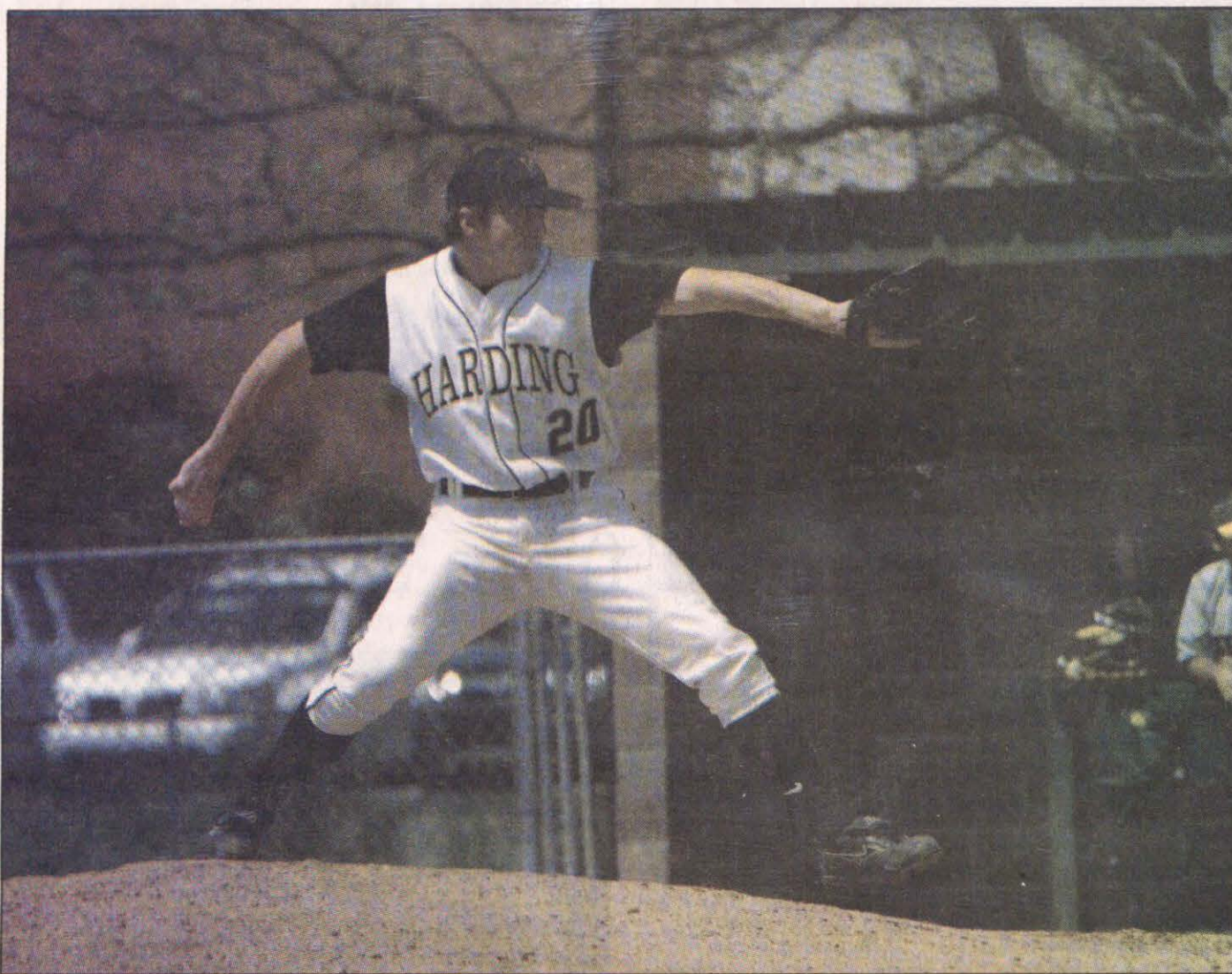
Other notable newcomers are sophomore first basemen Scott Sammons and freshman pitchers Kyle Cline, who will likely start in his first year, Chase Presley, Hayden Shirley and Alex Smith.

"Pitching is the strength of this year's team, and this year we have a lot of depth, something we haven't had in recent years," McGaha said.

According to McGaha, juniors Troy Keith (4-2, 3.31 ERA), Brodie Brumley (5-2, 6.17 ERA), Creveling and Cline will be the team's top four arms.

"These guys have a chance to win every time they pitch," McGaha said.

Brumley said he is looking forward to this season. He said he doesn't like being the underdog and believes this year will bring a lot more respect. Brumley is looking forward to avenging his two losses, which both came from Southern Arkansas University.



Junior pitcher Troy Keith takes the mound during a 2008 home game against Arkansas Tech. Keith started nine games last season and recorded a 4-2 record with a team-best 3.31 ERA.

McGaha said he believes senior pitchers Shane Bishop, Brian McCrackin, Dakota Gardner and D.A. Kremer are great out of the bullpen, great mentally and all that pressure situations.

With love that talk about pitching and top newcomers, key returners are sometimes forgotten.

Senior catcher Ryan Moody finished last season with a .234 batting average and ranked in the top five in team RBIs, triples, home runs, sacrifice flies, stolen base percentage, games played and games started.

Senior third baseman Wisley Correa finished last season with a .329 batting average, second behind Robertson. Correa also finished ranked top five in team on base percentage, hits, RBIs, doubles, total bases, hit by pitch, sacrifice flies, total plate appearances, at bats, games played and games started.

Senior outfielder J.D. Glenn finished last season with a .322 batting average and ranked in the team's top five in 17 out of 25 batting categories. Glenn is ranked number one or two in nine of the 17 categories.

Coming off a medical red shirt, senior outfielder Adam Darby will play a major role on the team. Before Darby red shirted, he was first team All-Conference, All-Region and led the GSC with a

.400 batting average. Darby said this is a great new team with endless possibilities. Some goals Darby set for himself are to set good examples for the team, to try to be the right kind of leader and to bring the best potential out of all the players.

"These guys work hard to be the guys they can be and represent the school with class," Darby said. "The guys would appreciate more fan support, especially from the student body."

McGaha said he believes the GSC west is the toughest conference in the nation, with three schools ranked in the top 12 in the country. SAU and Harding usually have a baseball rivalry, and this year should be no different.

The last two seasons have come down to the last game of the year against Arkansas Tech with the winner going to the tournament. In 2007 Arkansas Tech won, but in 2008 the Bisons won, sending them to the tournament.

McGaha said with team chemistry being up, some key returns and a strong recruiting class he hopes this season doesn't rest on the fate of one game.

"We would love, as much fan support as possible," McGaha said. "With 11 straight homes everybody should have a chance to attend at least one game."



Senior catcher Ryan Moody throws around during a recent home game at Jerry Moore Field. Moody has a Harding record with 67 runs caught stealing.

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 10	Hendrix*	noon
Feb. 14	Missouri Western*	noon
Feb. 15	Missouri Western*	1 p.m.
Feb. 17	North Alabama*	1 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Alabama-Huntsville*	noon
Feb. 22	at Alabama-Huntsville*	noon
Feb. 24	Williams Baptist*	1 p.m.
Feb. 27	Drury*	1 p.m.
Feb. 28	Wisconsin-Parkside*	noon
March 4	West Alabama#	3 p.m.
March 7	Waldorf	1 p.m.
March 8	Waldorf*	1 p.m.
March 10	at North Alabama*	1 p.m.
March 14	Southern Arkansas*	noon
March 15	Southern Arkansas*	1 p.m.
March 18	Central Baptist*	noon
March 21	Ouachita Baptist*	noon
March 22	Ouachita Baptist*	1 p.m.
March 24	Lyon	2 p.m.
March 28	at Delta State*	3 p.m.
March 29	at Delta State	2 p.m.
March 31	Crichton*	1 p.m.
April 4	at Christian Brothers*	noon
April 5	at Christian Brothers	1 p.m.
April 7	at Williams Baptist*	2 p.m.
April 10	Henderson State*	noon
April 11	Henderson State	1 p.m.
April 15	Central Baptist*	noon
April 18	Arkansas-Monticello*	1 p.m.
April 19	Arkansas-Monticello	1 p.m.
April 25	at Arkansas Tech*	2 p.m.
April 26	at Arkansas Tech	1 p.m.
May 2	GSC Tournament*	TBA

* — doubleheader

— in Memphis

^ — in Millington, Tenn.

Bison Outlook

Information courtesy of HU Sports Information

The Bisons will open their 52nd season of baseball with 13 returning letterwinners, six of whom are pitchers, off last season's team that finished 27-23 and earned a trip to the Gulf South Conference Tournament in Millington, Tenn.

Only two of Harding's five starting infielders return from last season. Senior catcher Ryan Moody, a three-year starter from Granger, Ind., returns behind the plate after returning through out a school-record 67 potential base stealers. Sophomore third baseman Tyler Thompson of Sherwood, Ark., hit .281 as a redshirt freshman and returns to man the hot corner. He had only seven errors there last season.

Harding is coached by Dr. Patrick McGaha, who is in his fourth season as head coach of the Bisons. He has an 82-73 record at Harding and a 201-168 record in his eighth season as a collegiate head coach.

The Harding University baseball team was selected fourth in the West Division of the 2009 Gulf South Conference Preseason Coaches' Poll released last week by the conference office.

If the prediction proves true, the Bisons will appear in consecutive GSC tournaments for the first time since joining the conference in 2001.

Comparing today's athletes with the all-time greats

CHRIS O'DELL

The Leadoff

After several monumental sports moments in the last few weeks, it has become obvious to me that we live in a world of sports that has never been seen before. By this, I mean the athletes we have the privilege of watching each and every week. Think about some of the top athletes in each major sport, and you might realize that many of today's athletes will go down as some of the best to ever play their sport.

In basketball, we have perhaps the most examples of this situation. For starters, Kobe Bryant is currently the best basketball player on the planet and just might etch his name with Jordan's among the NBA's all-time greats. He currently owns three championships and one league MVP, with another championship and MVP well in reach this season. And at age 30, with a young supporting cast around him, Kobe could possibly win several more championships before he retires.

In the same sport, you also have LeBron James, who is quickly gaining ground on Bryant for the league's best player. Many basketball fans believe James might ultimately be the one to dethrone

Jordan as the league's best player in history. His combination of size, strength, speed and pure athleticism make him nearly unguardable by even the league's top defenders. Did I mention he is only 24 years old?

Kobe and LeBron aren't the only two players that fall into this category, though. Chris Paul, Jason Kidd, Derek Rose and Steve Nash might all be considered a top 10 point guard in league history by the time they decide to hang the jersey up.

The NBA is definitely at its best right now. The only question is who will rise above the others to challenge past NBA greats like Jordan, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson.

Lets now go from basket-

ball to football, where you have several quarterbacks currently challenging the sport that might challenge the past greats like Montana, Marino, Elway, and Unitas for the honor of top QB in league history.

Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Brett Favre are all worthy opponents to challenge the legends of the game at quarterback. In fact, Brady had a season unmatched by any quarterback before him in 2007 when he threw for 50 touchdown passes to break the all-time record for most touchdowns in one season. The previous record holder was Peyton Manning, who currently leads the Indianapolis Colts. However, we can't go on without mentioning the most famous gunslinger to ever lead

a football team.

Brett Favre might be in his last years as a football player, but no one can deny his greatness. He now holds nearly every significant NFL career passing record for most career passing yards, most career touchdowns, most completions, passing yards and wins. He is also the only player to ever be named the Associated Press MVP three times in his career. Favre even holds the record for most consecutive games played (253) without a miss. This is incredible no matter what position you play when playing in such a contact sport, but to do it at a position where many players fail to play all 16 games each season is especially amazing.

Whether it's Kobe or LeBron in basketball, Brady or Favre in football, Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal in tennis or Sydney Crosby or Martin Brodeur in hockey, it is clear that we live in a world of sports that is unmatched by any year before us. No sports fan should take the athletes playing now for granted. Before you know it, they will be done with sports, and it will be up to more young players to challenge these greats for the honor of best player to ever play their position, or even best of their sport.

CHRIS O'DELL serves as the sports editor for the 2009 Bison. He may be contacted at codell@harding.edu

Bison Notes

Basketball team grabs road win

Information courtesy of HU Sports Information

After losing three of its last four conference games, the Bison basketball team was victorious over Ouachita Baptist on Saturday in Arkadelphia.

The Bison defense held Ouachita Baptist to only 20 percent shooting in the first half to lead Harding to a 69-67 victory at Vining Arena. It was Harding's fourth straight victory over Ouachita Baptist and its sixth in its last seven games against the Tigers.

Harding (13-7, 2-4) led by as many as 17 points in the second half when Sam Brown connected on three straight free throws to put the Bisons ahead 45-28 with 12:47 left. Ouachita Baptist (12-8, 2-5) trimmed the lead to nine on two occasions, but a 7-0 Harding run put the Bisons back up by 16, 57-41, with 8:18 left.

OBU's Daniel Maddox and Quintin Smith then com-

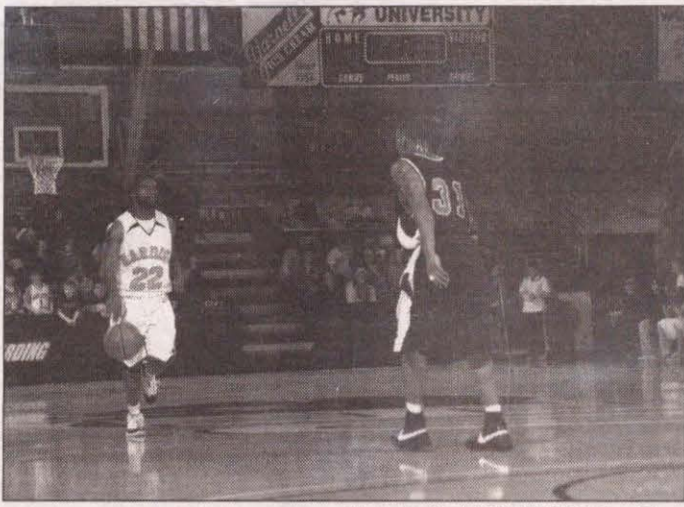


photo by CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison Senior point guard Steven Barnett handles the ball at a recent home game against the University of North Alabama.

bined to score 18 of the Tigers' last 26 points. During the stretch Ouachita Baptist outscored Harding 26-12 and pulled within one point with 2:15 left.

Harding answered with a jumper from Barnett, but OBU's Belford Williams made two free throws to cut the Bison lead to 68-67 with 1:31 remaining.

Harding got two defensive stops on Ouachita Baptist's next two possessions to claim the victory. The first was an Antonio Benjamin turnover and the second was a Benjamin missed shot.

With the victory, Harding

moved into sole possession of the fifth and final tournament berth in the GSC Tournament, midway through the conference season.

Harding outrebounded Ouachita Baptist 35-24, but the Tigers outscored the Bisons 28-8 off turnovers.

Kevin Brown had his fourth double-double of the season with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Sam Brown had 16 points, and Trent Morgan had 10.

Senior Steven Barnett led all Harding scorers with 18 points, shooting 7-12 from the field and 3-4 from the free throw line.

GSC West Standings

	GSC		Total	
	W	L	W	L
Christian Bros.	6	1	17	3
UA-Monticello	5	2	16	4
Delta State	5	2	15	5
Arkansas Tech	4	3	14	6
Harding.....	3	4	13	7
Ouachita Baptist. 2	5	12	8	
Southern Ark.	2	5	8	11
Henderson State. 1	6	3	16	

Upcoming Schedule

Feb. 12 @ Southern Arkansas
Feb. 14 Arkansas Tech
Feb. 19 Christian Brothers
Feb. 21 @ Arkansas Monticello

Football team nabs 30 on signing day

Wednesday was the first day that high school seniors were allowed to sign an NCAA National Letter of Intent for football and soccer. The Bison football team signed close to 30 players to play Harding football next season. Some of the new Bisons include:

Terrence Davis, 5-10, 180, WR, Nashville, Tenn. (Antioch HS)

As a two-year starter at quarterback for coach Mike Woodward's Antioch High School squad, Davis had

over 1,400 rushing yards and almost 3,000 passing yards and 42 touchdowns.

Davis was also named to the Tennessee Football Coaches Association All-State Team and holds school records for most passing yards in a season, most passing yards in a career and most touchdowns passes in a career.

Skye Dawson, 5-10, 175, WR, Dallas, Texas (Dallas Christian School)

Earned All-District honors for head coach Mike Wheeler at Dallas Christian where he played for the TAPPS 4A state champion.

Had 33 receptions for 484 yards and five TD as a senior. He also rushed 10 times for 220 yards and a TD and had 86 tackles and five interceptions as a cornerback.

Tanner Dykema, 5-10, 175, P/K, Crandall, Texas (Crandall HS)

First-Team All-District as a junior and senior ... Third-Team All-Area as a senior ... special teams player of the year.

Joe English, 6-3, 210, LB, Milton, Fla. (Milton HS)

Second-Team All-Area linebacker ... chosen as one of the Northwest Florida Football Elite Eleven.

Led team with 88 tackles as a senior ... 164 tackles in

two seasons as a starter at linebacker.

Weston Fairchild, 6-0, 205, LB, Batesville, Ark. (Batesville HS)

Fairchild recorded 123 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery as a senior under coach Dave King at Batesville High School.

Participated in the ARMY All-American Combine and was selected to the Scout.com All-Combine Team.

Ty Finley, 6-1, 190, RB/WR, Searcy, Ark. (Harding Academy)

Finley played for head coach Roddy Mote at Harding Academy in Searcy, Ark. and rushed for almost 1,000 yards and 16 TD and had 28 receptions and five receiving TDs.

In his career, Finley had over 1,600 rushing yards and 660 receiving yards on 55 catches and 50 total TD.

Other Signees: Anthony Frizzell, Anthony Graham, Mark Gutierrez, Bruce Hall, Antoine Harrison, Dallan Hudson, John Ikaahifo, B.J. Jones, Chase Jones, Josh Jones, Clayton Lemmons, Adin Menkin, Marquale Pierson, Josh Powell, Taylor Powell, Erik Ragsdale, Pete Richardson, Eddie Russ, Terone Shephard, Jeremiah Vivio, Will Walker, Conor Walkup and Evan Wynne

Ten things we learned from Super Bowl XLIII

ROBBY CARRIGER

Guest Sports Column



Now that we are a few days removed from Sunday's big game, it is time to sit back and look at the game objectively without the emotions and buffalo wings affecting our opinions. Without further ado, I present the top 10 things Super Bowl XLIII taught us.

10. This was not the greatest Super Bowl of all time: After last year's Patriots-Giants game, people were certain they had witnessed the greatest Super Bowl ever. What people fail to realize is this was a terribly boring football game (minus the Harrison interception return) for more than three quarters. In no way was it more exciting than Titans-Rams, and don't forget Adam Vinatieri's game winning kicks against St. Louis and Carolina. We need to call this game what it was: a good football game with a great ending.

9 a. Bruce Springsteen can still rock: The Boss performed at halftime, and although our parents' generation had to have enjoyed the show far more, Springsteen stuck to the classics and did not disappoint ... unless you actually watched instead of listening and saw an old man in tight pants power slide into a camera. The Boss still has it; just make sure to not sit too close to the screen.

9 b. Mike Tomlin looks exactly like Omar Epps. Go watch an episode of "House" or the movie "Love and Basketball," and tell me these two weren't separated at birth.

8. The Cardinals were a good football team: Many cited a weak division as the reason Arizona made the playoffs. Sunday in Tampa, Az. proved they were more than Kurt Warner throwing jump balls to Larry Fitz. The Cardinals' defense actually kept them in the game and made several big plays to turn momentum, including a couple

goal line stands and a handful of sacks of Big Ben. Couple that with Warner getting the ball to Fitzgerald, Boldin and Breaston, and Arizona showed America that they deserved to be where they were.

7. James Harrison proved he deserved the Defensive Player of the Year Award: Harrison's 100-yard interception return for a touchdown completely changed that football game. He single-handedly created a 14-point swing by intercepting a horrendous pass by Warner and transforming into the reincarnation of Jim Brown.

6. Kurt Warner is a Hall of Fame quarterback: Jim Kelly lost four consecutive Super Bowls. If he can get inducted into the Hall of Fame, then a guy who has won a Super Bowl and a couple MVP awards can as well. Warner is one of the best good guys in NFL history and a feel-good story. He has also been at the center of two of the most exciting Super Bowls of the decade.

5. Ben Roethlisberger is becoming the best big game quarterback of his generation: "Big Ben" is not the prettiest quarterback in the league. He doesn't have the numbers of a Brady or Manning, or the flare of a McNabb or Favre, but he has two Super Bowl titles and 15 game-winning drives to his name in just five years of NFL experience. He moves around the pocket and eludes defenders with the ability of Randall Cunningham. His knack for putting his team on his shoulders and finding a way to win was displayed several times this season, and the Super Bowl was the defining moment. He very well could have been the MVP of that game.

4. Larry Fitzgerald is Jerry Rice 2.0: Jerry Rice is the greatest wide receiver to ever play the game. Watching him catch footballs was like watching Bobby Fischer play chess — it just seemed right. The same can be said for the Cardinals' superstar. Fitzgerald is bigger, stronger and may have better hands than Rice

ever did. Despite having just one catch in the first half, Fitzgerald ended with seven catches for 127 yards and two touchdowns. He has the ability to change a football game single-handedly and handles himself on the field with grace and class. Larry Fitz has positioned himself at the top of the list for NFL receivers.

3. Santonio Holmes overshadowed the best receiver in football: With Big Ben's go-to-guy Hines Ward limping around the field, the third year receiver from Ohio State stepped up. During the last drive of Sunday's game he was the best player on the field. He bailed Roethlisberger out numerous times and got the Steelers into scoring position with an amazing run after catch. All this may have been forgotten, however, if not for the demonstration Holmes put on in the end zone. The ability to keep his toes down and pull in a ball behind three defenders displayed the amazing effort of one player and a refusal to lose.

2. The better team won: The Cardinals were an outstanding feel-good story. Kurt Warner and Larry Fitzgerald drew fans in and got half of the country behind a historically awful franchise. However, Pittsburgh had the best defense in the NFL, the most Super Bowl experience and the overall better team. Pittsburgh was the best and most balanced team on both sides of the ball. Mike Tomlin is also the best young coach in football. Pittsburgh proved at season's end they were better than anyone else.

1. The NFL is great: The Super Bowl draws the largest television audience of the year. Free agency and the salary cap have led to a level of parity no other professional sports organization can offer. Half of the league has a legitimate shot at making a title run in the NFL, and nothing could be better from a fan's standpoint. After Sunday, it is safe to say that football is dominating the American sports scene, and as a nation, we cannot wait for next season.

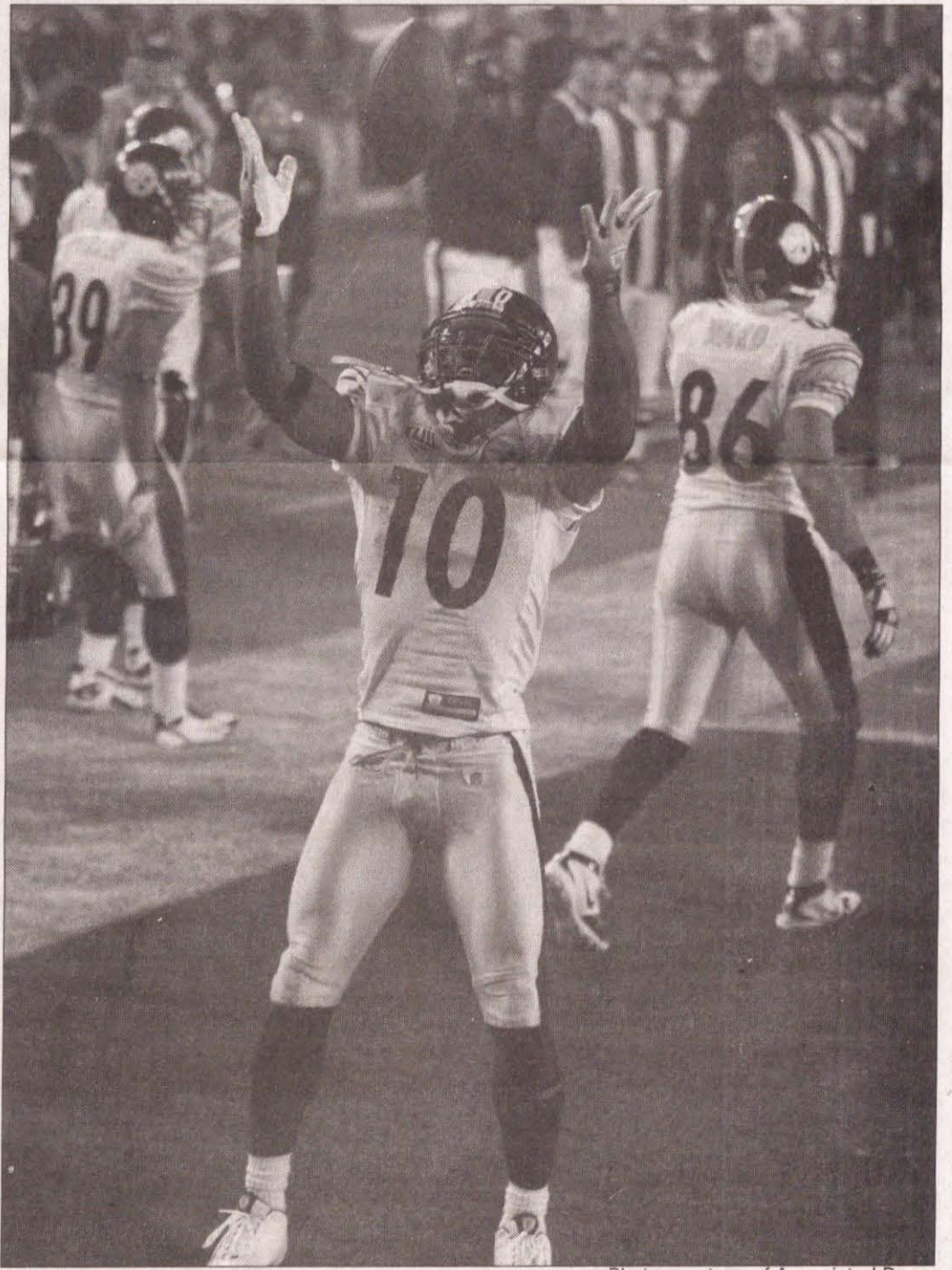


Photo courtesy of Associated Press Pittsburgh's Santonio Holmes celebrates catching the game-winning touchdown during the fourth quarter of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game against the Arizona Cardinals in Tampa, Fla.

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Students hear from Watergate scandal journalist

by JEREMY WATSON
editor in chief

Five Harding students attended a presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bob Woodward Tuesday evening at the Arkansas Statehouse Convention Center.

Best known for his work exposing the Watergate scandal with Carl Bernstein, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973, Woodward is an associate editor at the Washington Post and was the lead reporter during the Post's coverage of the aftermath of 9/11, which won another Pulitzer. He has also written 12 bestselling nonfiction books.

On Tuesday, Woodward discussed "The War Within: A Secret White House History 2006-2008," his most recent book, which discusses the way the Bush administration responded to escalating violence in Iraq in 2006 and brought America into the Iraqi conflict. Hosted by the Clinton School of Public Service as one of the speakers in their ongoing series, Woodward drew

the largest crowd the program had ever received.

Harding students Erin Gerhardt, Tyler Jones, Nick Michael, Sara Shaban and Luke Smelsor were a part of that crowd. Michael said he was glad Woodward remained objective with a subject many people find hard to keep emotions out of.

"Bob Woodward was very fair to Bush," Michael said. "It's refreshing to see someone disagree with the former-president objectively and calmly and articulately — like a journalist."

Some of the students who attended the presentation said Woodward's fame and status only added to the value of what he had to say. Shaban said listening to someone she had read and seen movies about speak passionately about his work inspired her.

"As a journalism student and one of the few younger people there, I left feeling motivated after seeing Woodward speak and watching the faces of those in the audience who kept their eyes on him from beginning to end

with a certain assuredness that they were, in fact, contemporaries with someone great," she said. "I felt, as a journalism student and just as person wanting to affect change in this world, that it was important to see someone who had been successful in making a difference, in making history and whose name has been embedded in journalism forever."

After his presentation, Woodward fielded questions about different topics, ranging from the recent movie "Frost/Nixon," which detailed the interviews of Nixon by British talk-show host David Frost shortly after Watergate, to the role of technology in journalism to the direction he thinks the industry is heading. Jones said he felt reassured at Woodward's confidence in the sustainability of journalism.

"Woodward captured the heart of journalism," Jones said, "remaining optimistic within today's shifting business model that important stories, and people making sacrifices to hear them, will never end."

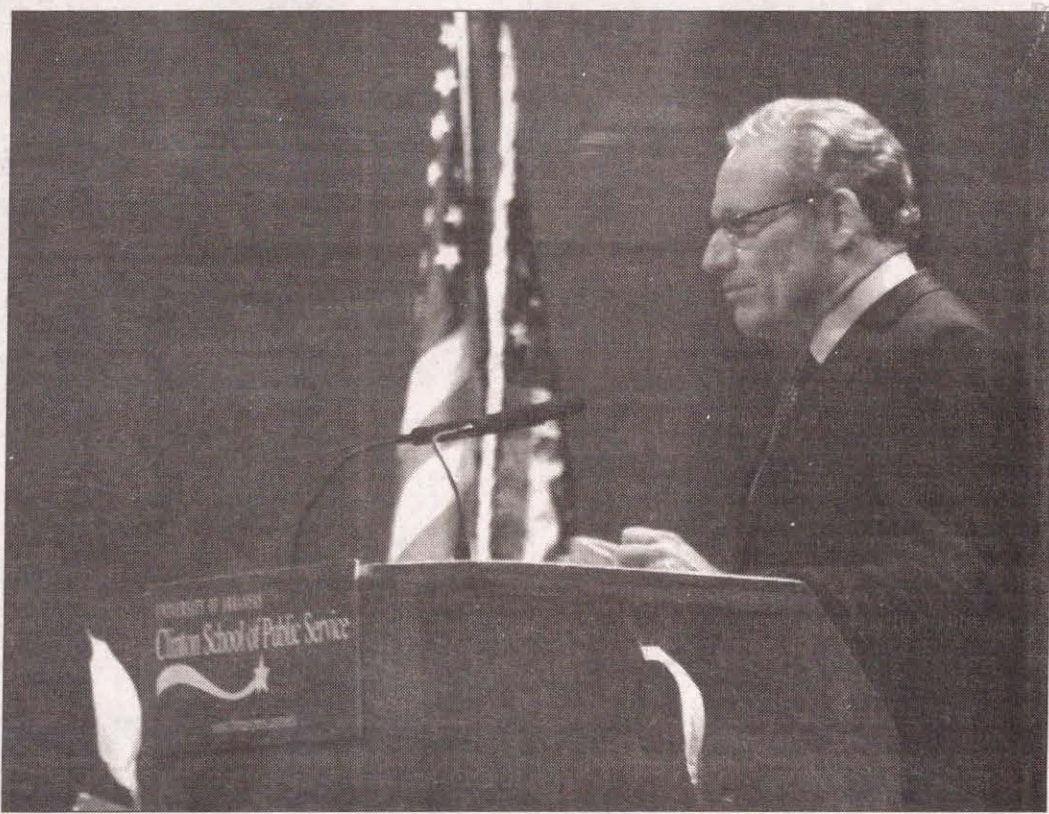


photo by NICK MICHAEL | the Petit Jean

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bob Woodward speaks at a program hosted by the Clinton School of Public Service Tuesday, Feb. 3. Woodward drew the largest crowd the program had ever seen.

Harding mathematics professor named to national review board

By RACHEL DENZIN
student reporter

Ron Smith, assistant professor of mathematics, has recently been named to the Board of Program Reviewers for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The NCATE is a national review board that sends a program reviewer to review a school's submitted report and decide whether to give a school accreditation to license teachers. Smith reviews schools all over the country in the field of mathematics, excluding schools in Arkansas (in case of a conflict of interest).

According to the NCATE Web site, program reviewers are nominated by specialized professional associations. Smith is a member of two professional associations

— the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Association of Mathematical Teacher Educators.

All program reviewers must have training in the standards of their specialized field, as well as previous experience with the program review process. The NCATE usually prefers a potential reviewer to have "experience with both mathematics and mathematics education," Smith said.

Smith taught high school mathematics for 12 years in Turkey, Ohio and Cabot, Ark. He has also taught elementary statistics, college algebra, trigonometry and mathematics for elementary teachers at Harding for three years now. Before Smith taught mathematics, he worked as a process control engineer setting up mathematics models in machinery.

Smith receives three to five reports a semester to review. Each report is about 100 pages.

"I normally take two weeks a semester to review the reports," Smith said. "I have to put a lot of time into it which means working a lot, even on the weekends."

In addition to teaching at Harding and being named to a three-year term on the Board of Program Reviewers for the NCATE, Smith is also working on his dissertation. He said he hopes to receive his doctorate in Mathematics Education from the University of Tennessee this summer.

Smith is proficient not only in the field of mathematics but also in the field of teaching. He reaches out to his students so they understand concepts that to some would be terrifying. He offers

"Mr. Smith helped me understand what I had been learning; his teaching style was very beneficial."

Chelsie Burris
junior

study sessions and any other help students need.

"One time I went to his office to ask for help," junior Kelli Phillips said. "He was very friendly and explained [the concept] in different ways until I understood it."

Junior Chelsie Burris said she had a similar experience. "I did not have Mr. Smith for statistics, but my friends did, so I sat in on a study session they went to," she said. "Mr. Smith helped me understand what I had been learning; his teaching style was very beneficial."

Computers to be required for some

by ABBEY HUNTER
student reporter

Starting next fall, incoming interior design majors will be required to have their own laptop computer.

John Keller, the chairman of the Art Department, said that due to the necessity of a program used by all interior design majors called AutoCAD, which visually constructs projects or designs to help put an image to an idea, students having their own laptops is the most practical idea. By using a laptop, students will be able to cut down on the long hours and late nights sometimes spent in the computer lab.

"We feel this is a better option for [students], as it does not restrict their computer use to lab hours," Keller said.

While some students have said they would enjoy a free laptop along with their degree, Keller said there are no plans to

institute a program providing students with laptops in the art department. Junior interior design major Whitney Walsh said she understood why Harding would not be providing laptops.

"The long-term goal is to build a new building for the art department," she said. "In the coming years, they may work on providing laptops."

While some schools like Abilene Christian University and Oklahoma Christian University give incoming freshman pieces of technology like iPhones or laptops, debate is ongoing about whether the money spent is worth it when the technology is sometimes not used much in the classroom.

While technology now plays a major role in college education systems, Harding has no plans to provide students with personal electronic devices, whether they are required like with interior design majors or would merely be useful for schoolwork.

ARKANSAS IN BRIEF

State medical board chair injured in bomb blast

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Federal agents focused their investigation Thursday on a stray tire seen moments before a car bombing that injured a West Memphis doctor and examined state medical board files hoping to find suspects.

Dr. Trent P. Pierce, 54, was in critical condition Thursday, a day after the bomb blew up in Pierce's driveway as he prepared to leave for work.

The chairman of the Arkansas State Medical Board lost his left eye in the blast, suffered burns and was pelted with shrapnel.

Surgeons worked to save Pierce's right eye, said Joseph Beck, who serves with Pierce on the state panel that licenses and disciplines doctors. Beck said Pierce's wife told him doctors also placed an oxygen tube in the injured doctor's throat.

Pierce "is conscious and responding," Beck told board members at a meeting Thursday morning. "I know our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Pierce and his family."

Board members attempted to carry on business as normal at their previously



Pierce

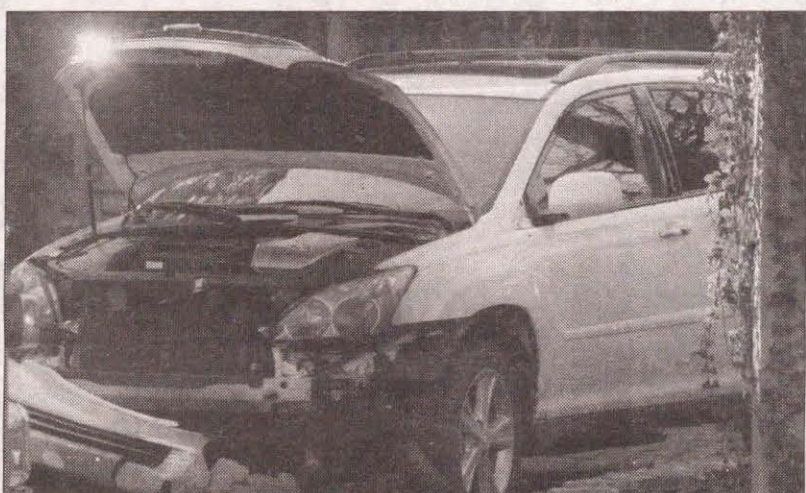


photo by the ASSOCIATED PRESS

The car of Dr. Trent Pierce is seen after it exploded outside his home in West Memphis, Ark., as he was leaving for work Wednesday morning.

scheduled meeting Thursday. However, agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives continually pulled out board members for interviews as Little Rock police officers guarded the building.

ATF agents poured over the panel's disciplinary records, paying close attention to its split decisions. As a habit, Pierce only cast a deciding vote when the board's 12 other members couldn't resolve cases. Agents also wanted to look at lawsuits involving the family physician.

Beck questioned whether a board decision played any part in the bombing. "Anytime a person's professional license is at stake, emotions run high, but that's been going on for years with this board," the Little Rock doctor said. "This was something atypical and terrible."

House approves bill to raise tobacco tax

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The Arkansas State House has narrowly approved a bill

that would increase taxes on cigarettes and chewing tobacco to help fund a statewide trauma system.

The House voted 75-24 Thursday to approve the bill, just making the supermajority needed to pass it. The bill now heads to the Senate.

The tobacco-tax bill would increase taxes on cigarettes by 56 cents a pack and raise taxes on chewing tobacco. Gov. Mike Beebe proposed the increase to generate an estimated \$87.8 million to pay for a statewide trauma system and expansions of health-care services.

The cigarette tax hike would raise about \$77 million under the measure. The measure also would restructure the way chewing tobacco is taxed to raise an additional \$10 million.

Arkansas FEMA kits may have tainted product

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky stopped distributing FEMA emergency meal kits for victims of last week's ice storm Thursday after authorities warned that the meals may include packets of peanut butter recalled because of possible salmonella.

The kits were shipped to Arkansas and Kentucky to help feed some of the 1.3 million people left without power for days at the height of last week's ice storm. No illnesses have been reported, but several people consumed the suspect

plastic packets of peanut butter.

The recalls were ordered out of "an abundance of caution," said Jay Blanton, a spokesman for Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear.

Even the governor had eaten some of the peanut butter while touring storm damage and said he feels "pretty good."

The salmonella outbreak is suspected of sickening at least 550 people across the country, eight of whom have died, and led to recalls of thousands of consumer products. A Blakely, Ga., peanut-processing plant that produces a fraction of U.S. peanut products is being investigated in the outbreak.

FEMA Acting Director Nancy Ward said during a visit to Kentucky Thursday that the agency learned about 10 days ago that some of its stockpile of meal kits included peanut butter affected by the recall. It sorted through national inventories and pulled out about 10,000 meals.

The company that produced the food kits, Red Cloud Food Service Inc., had earlier identified 530,000 meals that needed to be recalled, according to a Jan. 19 memo posted on FEMA's Web site. But Ward said the agency learned late Wednesday afternoon from the Food and Drug Administration that "the footprint of (the) national recall got larger," affecting more meals that hadn't been included before.

State emergency workers in Arkansas identified four trailers containing the food kits, but they had not been distributed.

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'Scrooge' work underway

by RACHEL DENZIN
student reporter

"Scrooge is a really complicated, warped kind of guy," junior Alex Ritchie said about playing the part of Scrooge. "But as seriously cruel as Scrooge is, he is human, and my hope is that my interpretation will be something people can identify with."

A select few at Harding are hard at work on the upcoming musical for the fall, "Scrooge." "Scrooge" will be a stage adaptation of the 1970 film of the same name (a musical film adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel, "A Christmas Carol.")

The casting process for "Scrooge" included five exhausting days of acting and singing auditions, discussing casting options, callbacks and movement auditions. This process was conducted by Robin Miller, director, Cindee Stockstill, producer, and Laura Eads, vocal coach.

"It is grueling -- both on the performers auditioning and the people making the casting decisions," set designer Britton Lynn said.

The production team for "Scrooge" began meeting after the musical "Oklahoma" closed in November to discuss what approach to take with the script. Because the director, Miller, is overseas at Harding's Florence, Italy campus this semester, much of the work had to be done over the 2008 Christmas break.

In addition to the almost 80 hours that have already been put in to the musical, the production team is currently spending an additional 10 hours a week, which will increase as the semester develops, working on each and every

detail. A few details are choreography of scene shifts, who changes costumes and when, how the set moves for each scene, what the set will look like and what the costuming will be.

Everyone "behind the scenes" is working tirelessly to figure out what the script calls for and the best way to present it to the audience.

"Scrooge" will have a cast of about 125 people when all is said and done; the cast includes actors, the orchestra and the technicians backstage. Ritchie will be playing Scrooge alongside many other pivotal roles.

"Beyond the title character, the other characters in the show are really rich and important to the story," Lynn said. "For example, there are three or four characters that have only one or two scenes, but in the scene the character sings a huge, important song."

The attention to detail in "Scrooge" is very important because it is set in the 1840s. This means the "hairstyles, makeup, hats and clothing will all have distinct looks," and unlike musicals in the past, great "attention to architectural detail" will be paid to Scrooge, Lynn said.

"Scrooge" will be playing Homecoming weekend, Friday, Oct. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 31, and is sure to thrill the audience with ghosts appearing and disappearing, magical chairs, amazing songs, a talented cast and much more.

"A general rule of thumb is that if the designers, directors and actors have fun with a show, then so will the audience," junior Rachel Filbeck, associate designer, said. "I am having way too much fun with this project, so I don't doubt that others will have fun watching the show."



photo by TAYLOR DURHAM | The Bison
(from left to right) Liz Larson, Sydney Clyde, Marisa Smith and Jordan Baily interact in the play "Overtones," which had an all-girl cast.

Upcoming plays offer fun, insight

By ASHTON REELY
opinions editor

Harding's theater department will be putting on three plays Feb. 12-14, just in time for Valentine's Day. A great idea for a date or a fun "girls' night out," each play has its own unique, entertaining plot. They will be showing in conjunction with one another, so audiences get to see three plays for the price of one.

Junior Mary McBride, the director of Stephen Gregg's "Why Do We Laugh?" said she chose to direct this play — a play that follows characters Meredith and Andrew during four stages of their love/hate relationship — because it is "real."

"It depicts an average couple in everyday confrontation, and that is what makes the audience feel connected," McBride said. "When you can relate to what's happening on stage,

it means more to you as a viewer."

A.R. Gurney's "The Dining Room" is being directed by junior Megan West and chronicles the lives of various characters living in the dying life of an upper-middle-class white culture.

"The directing experience has been a new and interesting experience," West said. "To be the leader of a complete production, from budgeting, to casting, to daily rehearsals, is nothing like ordinary school projects. There is a lot of time involved, a lot of stress undergone and, most enjoyably, a lot of fun moments that go into directing a show."

Wrapping up the three-play show is "Overtones," directed by junior Anna Shaffer. "Overtones" dives into Freud's Id theory and the idea of how we view ourselves versus what others think of us. Shaffer said the idea of an all-girl cast sounded fun. With two people repre-

senting each character, the play was challenging in that the actresses had to make an unusual situation seem natural, Shaffer said.

All three directors encouraged the student body to attend the shows.

"The student body should come out and support the arts because it is their peers that are involved in the shows," McBride said. "Not all of the casts are comprised of theater majors; we have students who are pre-med, IT, nursing and FCS. It is a great way to enjoy a night in Searcy with your friends for a low price."

West said the new Ulrey Performing Arts Center has been a great addition to the

theater department and has increased interest in productions.

"It is so nice to be able to have our own building that we can build set, sew costumes and have rehearsals in all at the same time. It has made productions easier [and] quicker, and the building just looks much better than what we have had in the past."

Shaffer added that students would enjoy the new "box office" theater atmosphere that enhances the viewing experience.

All three plays will run Feb. 12-14 in the Ulrey Performing Arts Center, starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 or free with the Pass.

Below: Answers To Previous Crossword And Sudoku Puzzles

6	2	9	4	7	5	1	8	3
1	7	3	8	6	2	4	5	9
5	4	8	3	9	1	7	6	2
2	9	7	1	8	6	3	4	5
3	6	5	7	4	9	8	2	1
8	1	4	5	2	3	9	7	6
4	5	1	2	3	7	6	9	8
7	3	6	9	5	8	2	1	4
9	8	2	6	1	4	5	3	7

CROP	REP	TSAR
LACE	SERUM	ALGA
ABET	APACE	DIRT
MBA	LOSER	NEE
PINAFORE	IMAGES	
VENT	SNAG	
EMCEES	HOOLIGAN	
LIAR	OIL	TARA
MARTIANS	SMARTY	
ENNE	SPLIT	
AMIDST	ATHLETIC	
SIN	HAGUE	ODE
CAFE	EDGAR	FOIL
OMEN	MOIRE	BLOT
TIRE	SET	ISMS



photo by ANTHONY MICHAEL RIVETTI

Clint Eastwood (left) and Bee Vang (right) tell a story of racial tension and redemption in "Gran Torino."

Film fits seasoned Eastwood fans

By CODY WAITS
student reporter

Box office triumphs and critical acclaim have launched Clint Eastwood's second movie of 2008 into the limelight. Is it worth the hype though? Clint Eastwood has attempted his "two-movies-in-one-year" feat before and came up short on one. His last attempt consisted of two World War II movies, "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima." While "Fathers" was a dud with critics and in the box office, "Letters" made up for it, though both the time spent on it and budget were not as much as what was spent on "Fathers." This year, Eastwood appeared to do the same thing. His big release was the period film "Changeling," starring Angelina Jolie. It was released to a barrage of harsh criticisms and therefore an abysmal showing at the box office. That is when Eastwood's small movie, "Gran Torino," took over.

"Gran Torino" is the story of Korean War veteran and Detroit native Walt Kowalski, played to his finest by Eastwood himself. Kowalski is truly a man of his time, full of prejudice and ignorance. He is lonely and simply wants to be left alone. This was all fine until his eyes were opened to

the new world around him. This world is filled with gangs, hate and zero justice. Kowalski also finds himself in a place he is not used to, as a minority. While adapting to this new way of life, he befriends his next door neighbors, who happen to be of a different race. This friendship takes Kowalski out of his comfort zone and puts him on the wrong side of a gang. Growing close to his new friends, Kowalski makes a stand against the gangs of his neighborhood.

On the outside, this movie looks like one that would fit Eastwood's past performances as Dirty Harry; however, there is more to Kowalski than that. While Kowalski shares the idea of "Shoot first and ask questions later," he is definitely a broken man. He has lost everything he had loved and is caught trying to figure out his next move in life as a lonely old man. He doesn't care for his two sons and their families, and he sure doesn't care about the families in his community. Some would say Kowalski is a racist and a bigot, but one can defend him in saying he is a man of his time. He doesn't know anything about being politically correct. He throws racial slurs around too much for them to be considered acts of hatred. Eastwood does a great

job baring his chops in "Torino." His performance is the one thing that keeps the story going and the viewer interested.

While Eastwood and the story are good, the film does get ridiculous at times. First, the number of racial remarks made by Kowalski is extreme and hardly believable at times. People watching were laughing at things that were not meant to be laughed at. It is not enjoyable when the dramatic scene is killed with laughter. Second, the acting by the supporting cast was terrible. This was mostly the two young actors that appeared opposite of Eastwood. These kids were the other focal point of the film and at times ruined the entire mood of the movie by showing they were truly novice actors. Sometimes it hurt to watch. Finally, cut the end song of that movie. The credits started to roll, and Eastwood's gravelly voice began. If you have ever heard Eastwood talk, then you know that the man is not the best singer in the world. I have heard it compared to the dog that played the piano from the Muppets.

"Gran Torino" is not a movie for the light hearted, though its central meaning is a pure one. When asked how one could think "Torino" was good, just look

back to the Dirty Harry series and realize that this was Eastwood at his finest. This movie is certainly lost on the college crowd and is meant for a more mature audience. This audience would be one composed mainly of those who have grown up with Eastwood's movies (those he has acted in.) If you are a fan of those kinds of movies, "Torino" is for you.

Grade: B -



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'Bride Wars' proves unrealistic

By **ABBEY HUNTER**
student reporter

From the couch, "Bride Wars" looks to be a fascinating movie promising laughter. Looks can be deceiving, though, as many of us have learned the hard way. This movie, directed by Gary Winick, provides an unrealistic insight into the lives of two best friends who are planning their weddings at the same time.

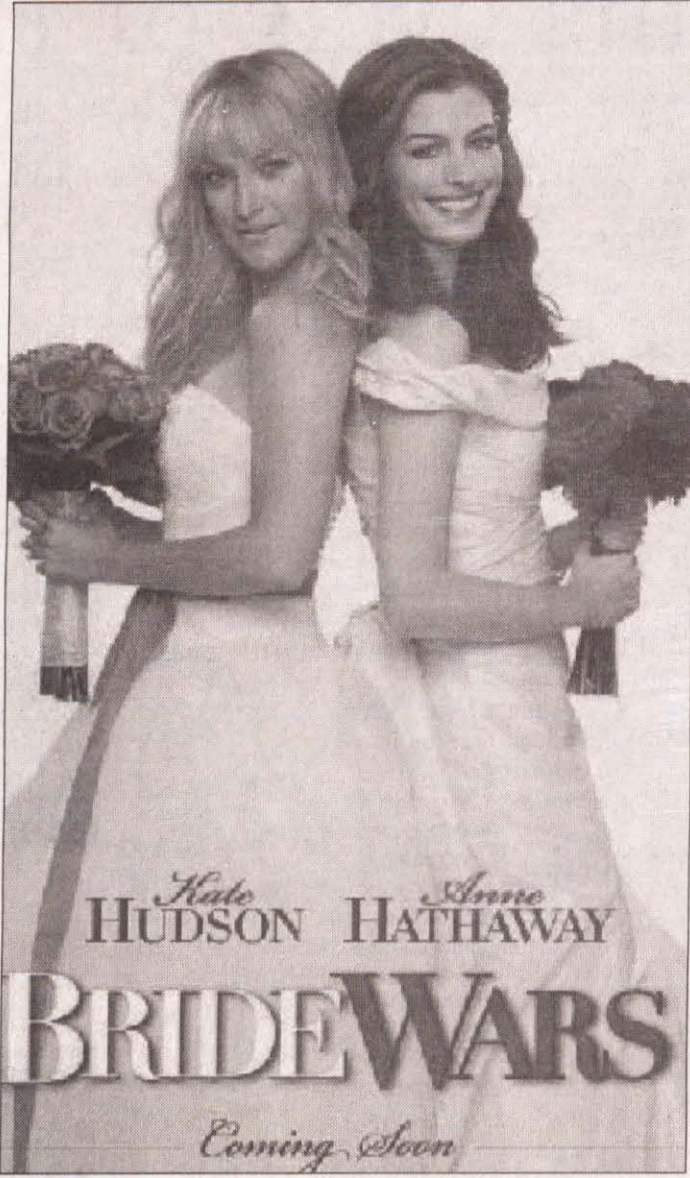
Liv, played by Kate Hudson, is a tightly wound successful lawyer who gets engaged at the same time as her easy-going, laid back childhood friend Emma, played by Anne Hathaway. Together, they begin the journey of planning their identical dream weddings, which revolve around the Plaza in June. After discovering their wedding planner, Candice Bergen, has double-booked their special days, the movie tumbles into a downward spiral of hatred and evil games played by both characters in order to secure the wedding date. While there are some humorous scenes, most of the movie is annoyingly frustrating. These two women spend their time planning

the next evil trick to play on the other, instead of focusing on planning the most sacred ceremony a man and woman can be a part of.

I don't know many women who decided exactly which floral arrangements and china patterns they wanted at their weddings when they were in elementary school. These two women, at the drop of a hat, have every detail and color scheme picked out without consulting the grooms. This movie does not realistically depict how best friends would handle this situation and leaves you feeling like you have witnessed nothing but a silly fight that could have been completely avoided had they re-evaluated the relationships they were celebrating.

Looking at other movies centered on weddings and marriage, this one does not even compare. Movies like "The Wedding Planner" and "Father of the Bride" contain more realistic circumstances one faces when planning a wedding.

This movie was nothing but disappointing and left me wondering how my friends will treat me while planning a wedding.



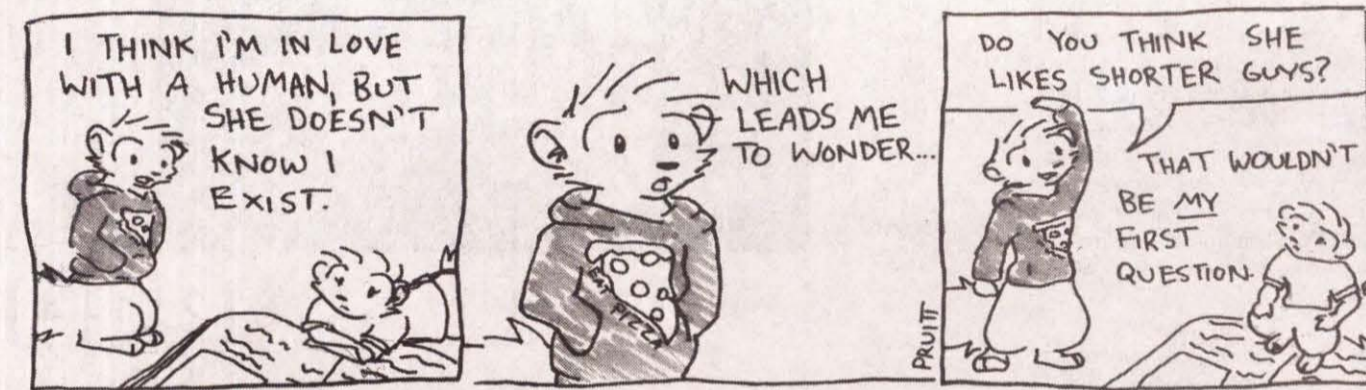
Mike Shelby

By **JONATHAN LINDSAY**



Harding Squirrels

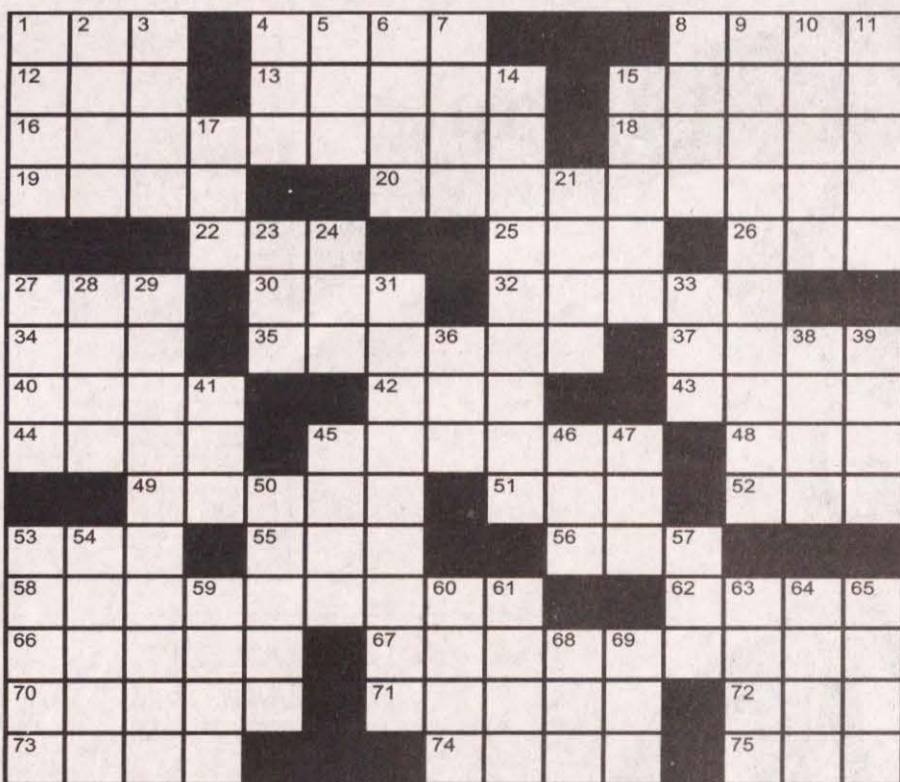
By **AMANDA PRUITT**



The Bison Crossword

Across

- 1 Quarrel
- 4 Trudge
- 8 Annoy
- 12 Mature
- 13 Unnatural
- 15 Channel
- 16 Confused
- 18 Presentation, for short
- 19 Wooded hollow
- 20 Maligner
- 22 Faint
- 25 Insect
- 26 Country (Abbr.)
- 27 Seize
- 30 High rocky hill
- 32 Fiends
- 34 Crete mountain
- 35 Lances
- 37 Rends
- 40 Invoices
- 42 Watering hole
- 43 *Thin Man* character
- 44 Terrier type
- 45 Planted
- 48 Negative
- 49 Auto
- 51 Samuel's teacher
- 52 Compass pt.
- 53 _____ Lanka
- 55 Toward the mouth (Prefix)
- 56 Barrel
- 58 Pay back phrase
- 62 Essayist
- 66 Role player
- 67 Finance
- 70 Holds back
- 71 Construct
- 72 Fixed charge



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Down

- 1 Foray
- 2 Leer
- 3 Water source
- 4 Oarlock
- 5 Garland
- 6 Grampuses
- 7 Selector switch
- 8 Head of hair
- 9 Invasions
- 10 Bus proceeds
- 11 Vegetation
- 14 Expound
- 15 Apple juice
- 17 Stale
- 21 Film types, for short
- 23 Common contraction
- 24 Cleaning tool
- 27 Insect eggs
- 28 Aleut. island
- 29 Kid controller, maybe
- 31 Strikes a chord
- 33 Sea eagle
- 36 Tending
- 38 Masters, for short
- 39 Rational
- 41 Diocese
- 45 Young salmon
- 46 Deer
- 47 Expire
- 50 Thresholds
- 53 Put at risk
- 54 Kitchen utensil
- 57 Beryl, for one
- 59 Dandies
- 60 Playing cards
- 61 Carryall
- 63 Existence
- 64 Chilled
- 65 Cruising
- 68 Rel. woman
- 69 Choose

Sudoku

	9		5			1		
		8						
2			3		9			
				6				3
	6	3			1	9		
							1	
3			8		2	6		7
	4	7	9				2	

WWII films remain popular genre

by **JEREMY WATSON**
editor in chief

World War II, while one of the most bloody and devastating conflicts in history, has also been of endless interest to historians and entertainers alike. It is one of the most popular subjects for filmmakers, and many award-winning motion pictures have been made about it, from films that focus on soldiers like "Saving Private Ryan" to ones that focus on those trying to escape the violence like "Schindler's List." There seemed to be several more high-profile WWII-based movies in 2008 than is usual, however. Here are some of the most recent ones.

"The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" — Released Nov. 7, 2008, "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" tells the story of the relationship built between Bruno, the eight-year-old son of a high-ranking Nazi official who thinks the concentration camp he lives near is a farm where people wear striped pajamas, and Shmuel, a young Jewish boy living inside the camp. As the two boys become closer friends, Bruno's father, who runs the concentration camp, fights with his mother, who doesn't like everything going on in the camp. When she eventually decides to move away with the children, Bruno and Shmuel realize they have little time left together and Bruno tries to help Shmuel find his missing father. The film shows the brutality of the concentration camps through the eyes of an innocent child who does not understand it, making it all the more poignant.

"Valkyrie" — Tom Cruise stars in this historically-based film about an ultimately futile plot by German officers to assassinate Hitler and put a stop to the Nazi government. After several attempts to take Hitler's life, Colonel Von Stauffenberg (Cruise) is recruited into the resistance movement. After realizing that the movement's plans stop at killing Hitler, he

has the idea to use Operation Valkyrie, a method of keeping order during an emergency that is already in place, to take over Nazi Germany once Hitler is dead. After one failed attempt, the resistance believes they have managed to kill Hitler on another try and initiate the plan, only to have it backfire once the army realizes Hitler is still alive. This movie shows the other side of the war from inside the Nazi power structure and still gives the audience someone to root for.

"Defiance" — Based on a true story of Polish Jews banding together to protect themselves from the Nazi encroachment into their home, "Defiance" stars Daniel Craig and portrays four Jewish brothers who manage to escape after their parents are killed by Nazis. After meeting up with other survivors and forming a community for protection and survival, the brothers begin fighting back, raiding German encampments and killing Nazi officers, including the man responsible for their parents' deaths. After sibling conflict leads the second-eldest brother to join a force of Soviets who enter into an agreement with the other brothers' community to protect them in exchange for supplies. After learning of an impending attack, the Soviets abandon the Jews, who must flee and fight in an attempt to survive. The movie ends by telling the audience that two brothers survived the entire war and make it to America, and that there are now many, many descendants of the people they saved.

World War II was the most massive conflict the world has ever seen, and it will not be soon forgotten, either in history or in popular culture. With more movies on the subject slated for release in 2009, including one from Quentin Tarantino, WWII has proven to still be an incredibly interesting and moving subject, even more than 50 years later.

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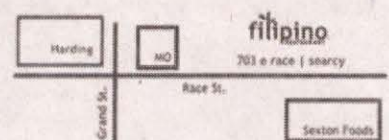
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Following his cycle of the seasons

Freshman finds fulfillment, fights injuries in semi-pro BMXing across the country

By CODY WAITS
student reporter

Doing a grind into a tail whip may sound like gibberish to some people, but to freshman Alex Wright it means so much more.

Wright grew up just like any normal kid. He was a 5th grader who played Little League Baseball and hung out with friends. This was everyday life for Wright, then a native of California. One day, his sister's boyfriend, a BMX rider at the time, let Wright take his bike out for a ride. Once Wright felt the handlebars in his grasp, he was hooked. That next year, he received a BMX bike for Christmas. This gift would be the catalyst for a long career in the world of BMX.

"After that Christmas, I was addicted to it," Wright said. "Riding was a way to gain independence. I could go out with my friends and just ride all the time. The girls also thought it was pretty cool."

A lot of Wright's friends joined in on the sport as well.

They became known around the neighborhood as the "Little Foxes," because of the amount of Fox Racing gear they were sporting. He rode throughout the summer doing bunny hops, bar spins and simple grinds. Wright did this until he moved up to junior high. This was when he decided to move his BMXing to the next level.

"Eventually, I moved up from my old, heavy bike to a Haro Nyquist bike, a much lighter and better bike," Wright said. "That's probably when I started to make the change into doing things that kids my age didn't do. I started riding big 5'6" tall dirt jumps, like all the big kids in the area. A kid of my age riding like this really helped make a name for

myself in my hometown."

Wright took his biking seriously, always pushing himself to get better. All the local skate parks in his California hometown didn't allow BMX riders, so he was forced to find a new outlet to relieve his need for perfecting his craft. He rode at a local power plant that had been shut down. There, Wright built his own jumps from anything he could find there. That didn't last though. The plant was bulldozed and Wright was left with no other option. He had to break some rules.

"Let's just say I ran into the cops a lot, but it was worth it," Wright said.

By the time Wright reached high school, he was the only one left from his original friends still riding. He found a new crew to ride with and continued his goal to become better and push the limits to what he could do with the sport. Going into his sophomore year of high school, Wright moved to Hoffman Estates, a suburb of Chicago. The area really opened doors for him. He was able to ride at a local skate park called Scrap Skate Park. He also began to ride competitively. Under his new identity as a "Scrap Kid," Wright rode alongside BMX professionals like vert pro Jimmy Walker and Asian X-Games gold medalist Koji Kraft.

"Scrap is where I really learned to ride," Wright said. "Riding with those guys really built me to ride the way I do today."

During this time, Wright rode in many competitions all around the country. Some of these include the Playstation Am Jam, the Westmont Jam and the Chicago City Trail Jam. A lot of the contests he rode in were amateur events; however, he has ridden in professional tours as well. One of the most popular of these is the Dew Free Flow Tour. Many profes-

sional extreme athletes show up at this tour of the country. Throughout these times in high school, he was able to travel the country and meet some of his heroes in the BMX world.

"My bike has taken me lots of places," Wright said. "So many, I can't name them all. I have met so many different people from so many different walks of life."

"I love it. I have had the opportunity to meet and ride with greats like Dave Mirra, Ryan Nyquist, Scotty Cranmer and Morgan Wade, just to name a few."

Wright said coming to Harding has put a damper on his time riding, but he is all right with that. He is majoring in business with hopes of starting his own BMX company one day. Classes keep him from traveling. Lack of decent skate parks take him from practicing much. He said he rides every day but not as much as he would like. When classes let out, he plans to get back to riding. This summer, he will be competing in numerous events across the country. He also hopes to work at a BMX camp that will allow him to practice every day without the fear of getting hurt.

"I have had a lot of injuries," Wright said. "I was in a wheel chair for a bit because I jumped off a parking garage. I also broke my shoulder in 2 places, my wrist, got a lot of stitches, chipped teeth, had a lot of concussions, been knocked out countless times and punctured my large intestine."

Wright said during the summer he hopes to perfect a few tricks that he has been thinking of over a period of time. Some of these include a triple tail whip, more back flips and front flips and decades. For now, Wright will continue his studies and enjoy time spent with friends.

"I don't know what the future holds, but I am excited to see where God leads me with my riding," Wright said.

