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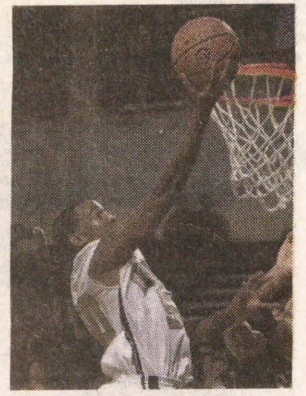
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SPORTS
The Bison looks at
the 2007-08 sports
year in review
Page 1B



SOLDIERS' STORIES

Students Learn Through Service

Soldiers Rely
On Experiences
In Professional
World

Editor's note: This is the third and final article of the Soldiers' Stories series, a remembrance of the ongoing war in the Middle East and the Harding students fighting overseas.

By JARED ABELSON
student reporter

As thousands of soldiers are being deployed to the Middle East and around the world, thousands are also returning home, each with a similar question:

What next?

Although military service can take a toll on marriages and pulls students from their studies with long tours of duty and dangerous work, soldiers are rewarded for their service not only with assistance in pursuing an education, but with valuable career opportunities. With so many members of the Harding community having served and currently serving, many current and former students are reaching career goals thanks to their military service.

Current Harding students Sgt. Patrick Hernandez and Spc. Brad Lawing have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively. As an interna- see IRAQ page 3a



Photo courtesy of Patrick Hernandez
Sgt. Patrick Hernandez, senior, and a battalion member wait for orders before departing on a mission in Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. Hernandez returned to Harding after serving a year and a half in the Army Reserve.

Harding Utilizes Online Voting

By ZACH WELCH
student reporter

The Student Association implemented a new online voting system for the 2008 elections, which were held Wednesday, April 23. The new system allowed students to cast their vote on the Internet for the first time, making it more convenient for everyone to participate.

In past SA elections, students who wished to vote were required to go to the student center and cast their vote on a paper ballot, which was put into a large box. SA president Charlie Walker said he felt a change was needed.

"We were a little behind in our

SA Election Results

President: Michael Crouch
Vice President: Megan Reese
Treasurer: Bryon Clifton
Secretary: Chad Graham

voting process," Walker said. "A lot of other schools switched to online voting several years ago."

The old process of paper balloting created countless hours of work by the SA and required workers to cross off each name to make sure students didn't vote twice. With a new online system, Walker said not only was polling available for a longer period of

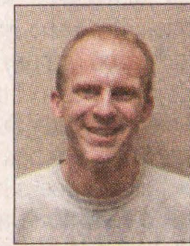
see RESULTS page 3a

Crouch: Students Need Stronger Voice In Policy

By JEREMY WATSON
copy editor

Harding's student body elected senior Michael Crouch as the Student Association president for the 2008-2009 school year.

Crouch, an economics and vocational ministry major, defeated senior Carson Copeland, who was the SA's service project director for this year, in the election on April 23 to become president. This was the first year to use online vot-



Crouch

ing, and 1,400 students voted this year, 200 more than last year. Crouch is no stranger to leadership on the Harding campus. Over the past year, he has served as the president of the Roosevelt Institution, the Honors College, see CROUCH page 3a

Future Grads Prepare For Teaching Overseas

By CARA GUGLIEMON
assistant copy editor

It's time to enter the real world — the real world in another language and in a different time zone. That is, at least, for four Harding students graduating this May.

Teaching English in Spain for eight months might not be for everyone, but for seniors Kristin Kelley, Claire McLean, Lucas Matthews and Sha'lon Mason, it is the next step into life after graduation. The four students will team with area foreign language teachers to contribute English and North American cultural education to schools in the Castile-La Mancha region of Spain from October 2008 to May 2009.

With the help of Ava Conley, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and International Studies and professor of Spanish, the students applied for grants from the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science to work as North American language and culture assistant teachers in Spain for a school year. The students made plans around the assumption that they would go to Spain after graduation and received notification of their acceptance this past week.

Under the guidance of a classroom teacher, they will

instruct students from among elementary, middle, high and adult schools for 12 to 16 hours per week, earning about \$1,038 per month. While the program provides medical insurance, paid school holidays at Christmas and Easter, certificates to assistants and a teacher orientation course at the beginning of the year, it requires assistants to find and pay for their own plane tickets, lodging and meals.

According to the Web site of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, the program "gives recent graduates an opportunity to visit Spain and become acquainted with the Spanish education system, teachers and students, while sharing with them aspects of [their] own language and culture." The group will leave for Spain in September and plan on living in the city of Albacete, within the Castile-La Mancha region.

McLean, who majored in Spanish and music, said she chose that city because it has a church of Christ and because Conley knew people there. With a population of more than 150,000 (not including the windmills in La Mancha from Don Quixote's famous journey) and a reputation for its cutlery, knives and swords, Albacete also appeals to McLean because of its general absence of tourism.

see SPAIN page 3a

Dean Gives New Life To Old Cars

Varner Restores
Everything
From Cars
To Tractors

By ZACH WELCH
student reporter

As I made the 20-minute drive from Searcy down a partially paved road just past Providence, Ark., I have to admit I was filled with anticipation. I was about to get the opportunity to ride shotgun in a restored 1964 Ford Fairlane. While you may be able to think of better things to do with your afternoon, as a lover of classic cars, I jumped at the chance.

As I arrived at my final destination, a lone figure emerged from a large shop at the edge of the property, still dressed in a shirt and tie after another day at the office. For Stu Varner, restoring vehicles isn't just a hobby — it's a passion.

"It's something I just love to do," said Varner, Associate Dean of Students at Harding. "I just really enjoy taking something tired and worn out and making it new again."

As I climbed into the car, I couldn't help but admire what great condition the car was in. Varner told me there



photos courtesy of Stu Varner

Associate Dean of Students Stu Varner restored a 1941 Farmall BN (above) in 2004, ridden by his children Kelsey, Austin and Blair. The tractor (below) was purchased in West Virginia by his grandfather shortly after World War II.

were only 100 original Ford Fairlane Thunderbolt drag strip racing cars made. He said Ford completely dominated the drag racing scene in 1964, winning all 37 races with their 427 V8 engines. Varner's car is called a Thunderbolt, which is a clone of the 100 original Fairlane's. At the time, the Thunderbolt was the fastest production car with a 427 engine under the hood.

As we took off down a rural White County road, like any see VARNER page 6a



The Long Drive



TAYLOR DURHAM | The Bison

Students participate in a fundraising golf driving competition sponsored by the American Marketing Association at the Log Cabin Driving Range on Tuesday.

Administration Adjusts Policy For Off-Campus Housing

By BETHANY LOFTIS
student reporter

Harding has seen huge numbers of enrollment in the past few years. With more students, more places for students to live are required. Instead of building new dorms right now, Harding has made some adjustments to off-campus requirements.

Students will be able to move off campus earlier than before after these changes. Previously, full-time students had to be 23 years old or living with a family member.

"Our housing policies are designed to create a residential campus community where students

are fully engaged in campus life," said Dr. David Collins, assistant vice president for student life and dean of students. "There are very few campuses where students have the opportunity to spend four years developing so many relationships to the degree that Harding students enjoy."

With the new changes, students must have completed 120 credit hours or be at least 22 years old with 105 credit hours completed.

"According to fall 2007 data, this change would affect well over 100 students," Collins said.

Student interest has been very high concerning this matter mostly because the demand for

private rooms has increased. By allowing more upperclassmen to move off-campus, there is more space for private rooms in residence halls.

This change should increase the availability of private rooms throughout the residence halls.

As more students qualify to move off-campus, there will be more openings in privileged housing as well. So now students with fewer hours have better chances of getting into the upperclassmen apartment-style dorms.

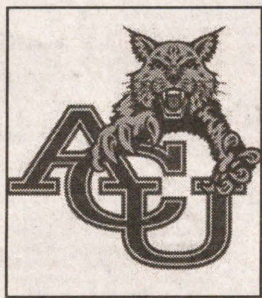
The growth in the student population has posed a few problems. On a few occasions, the residence halls have reached their capacity.

see HOUSING page 3a

The Newsreel

Abilene Christian Revises Alcohol Rules

Plans are in motion at Abilene Christian University to revise the school's long-standing policy on alcohol. According to the church of Christ-affiliated university's current policy, all students, regardless of age, are prohibited from consuming alcohol on or off campus. Under the new policy, going into effect this fall, ACU students over the age of 21 will no longer be punished for what they drink off campus.



ACU

Dr. Jean-Noel Thompson, dean of students at ACU, started pushing for the changes after coming to the university last July. Working with the Students' Association, Thompson brought several student conduct policies before the President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees for reconsideration.

"For me personally, the way in which we communicate and enforce some policies I think need work; alcohol is one of them," Thompson told The Optimist, ACU's student-run newspaper. He said he hopes the changes will encourage dialogue on the issue, allowing students to develop a Christian perspective on alcohol.

Though he anticipates controversy over the changes, Thompson reiterated ACU's tough stance on alcohol abuse. The campus will remain dry, as will all school-sponsored activities, and students who violate the new policy will have to deal with, as Thompson said, "stricter sanctions."

Praying Parents Charged

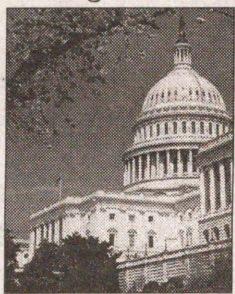
The parents of Madeline Neumann, an 11-year-old girl from Weston, Wis., who died of Type 1 diabetes last month, were charged Monday with second-degree reckless homicide in the death of their daughter.

Madeline died on Easter Sunday from a lethal lack of insulin in her body. She had been showing signs of illness for about three weeks before her death, during which time her parents, Dale and Leilani Neumann, chose to pray for Madeline's recovery rather than take her to a doctor.

The Neumanns face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. The mother told the Associated Press that she didn't expect her daughter, who was home-schooled in the family's rural Weston home, to die.

Congress Forced To Drive Greener

As members of Congress look for ways to make the U.S. more environmentally friendly, one new requirement is causing quite a fuss. An amendment to last year's energy bill is forcing some lawmakers to give up their SUVs and trucks in favor of vehicles with greater fuel efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions.



CONGRESS

The little-noticed amendment is aimed at state representatives who lease vehicles through their office's taxpayer-funded budget. About 130 of the 435 members of the House of Representatives lease vehicles, ranging from Rep. Wally Herger's (R-Calif.) Ford Expedition, which averages 14 mpg of taxpayer-funded gas, to Rep. Emanuel Cleaver's (D-Mo.) Ford Econoline, which runs on cooking grease. Cleaver authored the amendment, telling the L.A. Times that the same lawmakers who are mandating more fuel-efficient vehicles for the public should set a better example, lest they look like "fat cats living the fat life."

Under the new requirement, the Environmental Protection Agency would determine which vehicles representatives could lease. However, some lawmakers are resisting. Some complain about the size and durability of gas-electric hybrids, while others say that the public doesn't care what kind of cars their representatives drive. Some lawmakers already lease eco-friendly vehicles, but believe their colleagues should be able to choose what they drive.

Chair-iots Of Fire

The first-ever Office Chair Racing Championship took place in Bad Koenig-Zell, Germany last Saturday. Seventy participants strapped on helmets and brought their rolling chairs from the office to the race track, a 170-meter downhill stretch of Odenwaelder street. Though no racers were seriously hurt, many of the chairs didn't make it to the bottom of the hill in one piece.

The NUMBER

1 — According to American rock band Three Dog Night, it's the loneliest number that you'll ever do.

The Window



TAYLOR DURHAM | The Bison

Senior Brandon Stone, left, and Sophomore Thomas Hill go up for a flying disc on the front lawn.

The WATERCOOLER

"You get to fly across the Atlantic AND destroy soccer at the same time!"

— Comedian Stephen Colbert, joking about reports that an ethanol-fueled flight from London to New York would require the equivalent of a year's worth of corn from thirty soccer fields. The reports come from an article by the Royal Society of Chemistry that blasts the inefficiency of biofuels.

"I think it was a one-off response to a particular situation."

— Thom Yorke, frontman for the rock band Radiohead, talking about the experiment his band conducted by letting fans pay whatever they wanted for Radiohead's 2007 album "In Rainbows." While some fans paid

as much as \$200 to download the album, Yorke said the experiment will not be repeated.

"I think my real competition is the beaver."

— Magician and stuntman David Blaine, before attempting to break the world record for breath-holding underwater on Wednesday. While Blaine broke the record with a time of 17 minutes and 4 seconds, beavers can stay underwater for 20 minutes.

"When a corporation makes a major investment in a teen girl, they're in for trouble."

— Actor Paul Peterson, founder of the entertainment industry watchdog group A Minor Consideration, on the damage

that Disney is trying to undo after 15-year old starlet Miley Cyrus's racy photo shoot with Vanity Fair magazine. Disney worries that the photos will destroy her squeaky-clean image and ruin her appeal as a role-model to young girls.

"I believe in democracy but I can't stand for someone to criticize my country using biased ways. You are wearing Chinese clothes and you are using Chinese goods."

— Minna Jia, a graduate student studying political science at the University of Southern California, complaining about being called a nationalist by her professor.

The CALENDAR

MAY 2 No events	MAY 3 No events	MAY 4 No events
MAY 5 FINALS	MAY 6 FINALS	MAY 7 FINALS

CROUCH: Empowering HU IRAQ: Soldiers Return Home To Develop Jobs And Study

CONTINUED from 1a

College Republicans, the American Studies Institute and the business group Phi Beta Lambda, as well as participating in several other groups.

Crouch said he already has many plans to attempt while in office.

"I'm hoping to work over the summer to get a couple of basic needs met," Crouch said. "I plan on having the entire year mapped out well before the fall semester starts. Now I'm not saying that I'm closed to ideas at that point, just that we need to have a basic skeleton of a plan so we can put some meat on it."

"One of my most concrete ideas [is to] reserve the Cone Chapel and just have an open forum. Have everyone up there, and we'll probably have cookies, lemonade."

Crouch began listening to the student body even before he was elected, asking students to text in questions to be answered live during his chapel presentation the Monday before voting. He received 323 text messages, with questions ranging from serious ones about his future plans to some a bit sillier, like asking for help solving a problem in an NCAA 2008 video game ("I have no idea") or if Crouch was single ("For the record, yes"). Some just complimented his appearance, saying he had nice lips ("Better than having bad ones") or that they liked his sweater and wondered where he got it ("That was the most common question I got"). Crouch said he eventually replied to all the questions through text messages, including the less serious ones, and wants to work on some of the questions students asked.

"One of the text messages I got said I'm married, and I can't swim here with my husband," because of the mixed bathing stuff," Crouch said. "And that's not the biggest deal in the world for me, but at the same time it's an issue for someone else who cares about it, and it would be a very easy problem to fix."

HOUSING: Changes Made

CONTINUED from 1a

In these cases, the Heritage has been used as temporary housing until rooms became available in the residence halls. The third floor of the Heritage is always on hold during the beginning of the school year in case there is any need for it.

Last year there were only a few students there for a very short period of time. Other years, there have been around 20 students living there for a slightly longer period of time. In other

"I really want students to feel a sense of ownership of chapel. I want students to hear talks on topics they want to hear about and to be able to hear speakers they want to hear."

Michael Crouch
2008-2009 sa president

"Maybe taking care of some of the minor needs along the way can build towards greater needs."

Crouch said one of the main things he wants to implement next year is allowing students more control over chapel. By involving students in the decision-making process of picking topics and speakers, Crouch said he feels students would stay more interested and enjoy chapel more.

"I really want students to feel a sense of ownership of chapel," he said. "I want students to hear talks on topics they want to hear about and to be able to hear speakers they want to hear."

Crouch's focus for the time he is president is on helping students with ideas for Harding to get their ideas to the rest of the students and turn them into realities, he said.

"The second a student thinks of an idea, they should be capable of sharing it with the community," Crouch said. "I think we have talented students who are fully capable of getting an idea passed through. I just want to help them along in the process to help them take care of the things they want so that they can have not only the best Harding experience for themselves but help others as well."

"I think that there is a lot that can be done, and really, it just takes one student leadership group to start asking questions instead of just doing their own thing to make it the norm."

years, it has not been needed at all. There is a chance it will be needed for a short time for a few girls next year.

"We really won't know for sure until into the summer," Patty Barrett, Director of Residence Life, said. "Numbers have a way of changing, both up and down, so we can't really tell how things are going to be until much closer to time for school to begin."

There are not current plans to make the Heritage a permanent housing facility.

CONTINUED from 1a

Current Harding students Sgt. Patrick Hernandez and Spc. Brad Lawing have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively. As an international business major, Hernandez said his experiences overseas were invaluable.

"I was able to see a lot of logistics operations, and I got to see a lot of how companies with government contracts worked," Hernandez said. "I learned diplomacy, and as a soldier you have to be a diplomat as well with the local village leaders to workers with the Red Cross. The overall perception of my worldview now was one of the biggest things I learned. Grasping what international world players see is key."

Hernandez said he plans to consider different job offers or return to active duty and apply for an officer's commission after graduation.

For Lawing, both his service and injuries received in Iraq proved to be very helpful in propelling him toward his career goal of being a medical doctor. After graduation, Lawing said he plans to apply for medical school with medical training from the Army and numerous shadow hours from his time spent in Walter Reed Memorial Hospital after he was injured by a grenade while saving a fellow soldier on his resume. And of course, service in the military also provides soldiers with great recommendations and training that many students applying for jobs and spots in graduate programs do not have.

Many soldiers often choose their career paths based on job experiences received during active duty and pursue an education accordingly. This is the case for Adam Johnson, a current Harding student who served in both the Army and Navy on three occasions. From 1989 to 1992, Johnson served in the U.S. Army, then enlisted in the Navy from 1992 to 1997 and finally enlisted in the Army again from 1998 to 2000.

Before beginning his career in the armed services, Johnson was enrolled at Harding and was pursuing a career in engineering. While serving, Johnson went to medic school and became a combat medic. Johnson said this work sparked his interest in pursuing a nursing degree.

"I had always been interested in the medical field," Johnson said. "I have more of a knack for science than anything else, and I have worked in that field before so I have more of an idea of what it is like."

Johnson took more away from the military than a desire to pursue a nursing degree, though.

"What you learn in the military as far as leadership and the initial training that you get helps you in



photo courtesy of Jacqueline Dillon

Harding graduate Jacqueline Dillon spent time deployed in Iraq during her eight-year tenure with the military. Today, Dillon works with Harding's international programs, thanks in large part to her experiences and studies through the military.

every facet of your life," Johnson said. "The military has helped me learn to push myself and be able to set a goal for myself."

After spending time deployed in Iraq, Harding graduate Jacqueline Dillon took her military experience and used it to meet her goals of studying and working abroad. Dillon joined the Army National Guard at age 17 and was deployed to Iraq during her eight-year tenure with the military. While at Harding, Dillon spent time overseas with Harding's international programs in England and Italy.

"The rich diversity and cultural stimulation of these programs were perhaps the highlight of my time at Harding," Dillon said.

She was able to work as a teacher and graduate assistant for the university's program in England in 2005 and enrolled in graduate school in East Yorkshire.

While pursuing graduate studies in 19th-century British literature in the United Kingdom, Dillon began working with Harding's international programs, managing programs in the European region. Dillon said her military service played a large part in helping her reach her goals of studying and working overseas.

"I think it gave me the confidence to pursue graduate school overseas," Dillon said. "Graduate school alone can be an intimidating undertaking, but after the deployment, British literature in Britain seemed not quite so foreign."

Though traveling may seem like an intimidating part of military service, Dillon said her time in

the military gave her the necessary experience to learn such an essential skill for her desired career.

Now that she is officially out of the military, Dillon said she still sometimes considers returning to active duty. Even though joining the military is a difficult decision to make for a student, Dillon's story shows the long-term benefits of service to the country.

"I would say examine yourself, your personality and your reasons very carefully, but if it's for you, then it can be a rewarding experience," Dillon said.

Times are not easy for those serving our country. It is especially difficult for soldiers who choose to work toward a degree outside of the military. The incentives offered to students willing to serve are well deserving of the sacrifices made by men and women who are willing to risk their lives for their country.

Some soldiers enlist to serve their country for one tour of duty with the current need for more numbers of troops overseas, and others re-enlist and make the military a career. Regardless of how many years of service are put in, one thing remains: the military experience is not for everyone, but can be life changing for those who choose to serve.

Perhaps this is what drives students to answer the call of enlistment first, and then leads others like Adam Johnson to re-enlist.

"It gave me a greater sense of self-worth," Johnson said. "It helped me find who it is that I am, and it made me more proud of my country and myself."

Military Assists With Tuition

Many college students help pay for their college tuition by serving in a branch of the military, which offers education funding and assistance.

"Tuition assistance gives you up to \$4,500 a year," said Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Williams, Station Commander at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Searcy. "Once you get above the \$4,500 a lot of soldiers utilize the GI Bill," Williams said. "The GI Bill and other college incentives can be used to pay for both academics and other finances, like utilities." Williams also said that depending on which job or unit a soldier enlists with, they are eligible to receive enlistment bonuses that can reach as high as \$20,000.

Although troops continue to be deployed, Williams said that recruits should not necessarily expect to be deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"For the next three to four years the chances of being deployed are pretty slim, because the Army has a new program called Education Plus," Williams said. "Certain jobs with certain units have this incentive where if you enlist in the Army Reserves under a certain job, they will guarantee you four years of stabilization, but there are a limited number of enlistment options like that."

Williams also reiterated that the Reserves also only serve part time and are typically not expected to deploy.

- Jared Abelson

RESULTS: Turnout Strong

CONTINUED from 1a

time, but the results were also able to be viewed instantly once the polls closed at 11:59 p.m.

Junior Mallory Thompson said she preferred the new online system to the old method.

"It was way less of a hassle this year," Thompson said. "I didn't have to wait in line, and I was able to vote on my own time."

Last fall Walker approached Gabriel Foust, an instructor in the computer science department, asking for help with the voting problem. Foust agreed to help Walker and the SA solve the issue by employing the help of three computer science students Pablo Oropin, Mark Rucker and David Farrow. Together the three students designed a successful program that allowed students to log onto Pipeline and vote. The program recorded every vote, calculated participation and sent out an email to each student informing them how to vote.

"It wasn't a part of a class;

they took it on themselves," Foust said.

Foust said the program ran very smoothly, with the exception of one small glitch which only required a simple fix.

Not only did the program alleviate some of the problems and headaches that went along with the old system, it also increased student participation considerably.

"We had 1,400 students turn out this year which is up from 1,200 when I ran last year," Walker said. "We attribute that to the online voting system and the e-mails it sent out to students."

While no plans for future use of the system have been made, Walker said it's possible the program could be used for other types of voting and surveys taking on campus.

Walker said he isn't sure if the system will be used again next year. That decision will be left up to next year's SA president, Michael Crouch.

SPAIN: Students Passionate About Foreign Languages

CONTINUED from 1a

"It's just an authentic, normal, nothing special to it, not tourist trap town from the heart of Spain," McLean said.

McLean said a hurricane relief trip to Louisiana her sophomore year sparked her interest in working with people from other countries. While McLean worked with a church there, a man from Mexico who spoke almost no English showed up wanting to help. He began coming to McLean, who knew Spanish, asking how to say certain words in English, writing them on a napkin and using the words in conversation the next day. Throughout the week, he continued requesting these English lessons. McLean said this man was one of the first people from other countries whom she interacted with.

"It was really exciting, because I felt like I was helping someone — helping people become accustomed to living in this country," McLean said. "Then I was like, 'Hey, people do this for a living,

don't they?' And I don't really need to know a lot to make a big difference."

McLean said after enjoying this exchange of languages in Louisiana, she later realized she wanted to work with and earn a master's degree in English as a Second Language.

Her subsequent trips to Peru, Chile, and Guatemala increased her desire to work with immigrants and teach English as a Second Language. She said going to Spain could help prepare her for a career in teaching ESL.

"I really wanted to go, not just because of the experience, but because I wanted to do ESL, and that'll be really good hands-on experience, and when I go to grad school to study ESL, I can keep that in the back of my mind," McLean said.

She said she hopes to live with the Spanish people during the program, once she knows them well enough, so she can learn through immersion in the culture. Getting

involved with the church and offering English lessons one to two nights a week as a ministry to the community is also something she said she hopes to do.

The Spain trip could also help her relate to immigrants learning a new language in a foreign country and could clear doubts about plans to study ESL from her mind, McLean said.

"I think it's what I want to do, and going to Spain will really tell me in a very in-your-face way, where I have to humble myself to their culture," she said.

Although McLean has been planning her post-graduation activities around going to Spain, she said her desire to travel there with the teaching program had been a fairly new development.

"I never thought I'd do it," McLean said. "Because my original interest was in the Peru-Andes area. The more I traveled, the more I learned that there's something unique in every place."

In breaking from her original

"I think it's what I want to do and going to Spain will really tell me in a very in-your-face way where I have to humble myself to their culture."

Claire McLean
senior

plans, McLean has also learned to be more comfortable with new experiences and language barriers.

"With language barriers, people get really awkward," she said. "They don't talk to each other and stuff. But it's only awkward if you let it be awkward. You can do a lot with humor and gestures."

As McLean moves, along with Kelley, Mason and Matthews, into this new "real world" of another language and she said she would embrace any challenges it could bring.

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GUARDIAN OF THE MEMORIES: SEARCY

Guardian of the Memories: Searcy
Frank W. Brown, MD

This book is a collection of memories of growing up in the rural South during the late 1960s and 1970s near Searcy, Arkansas. The memories are of a young boy who is disadvantaged educationally but gifted in surviving in the deep woods as a hunter, trapper, and fisherman. The stories show his transformation into a young scholar who became the first in his family to attend college and then to enter medical school.

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FRANK W. BROWN, MD

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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.

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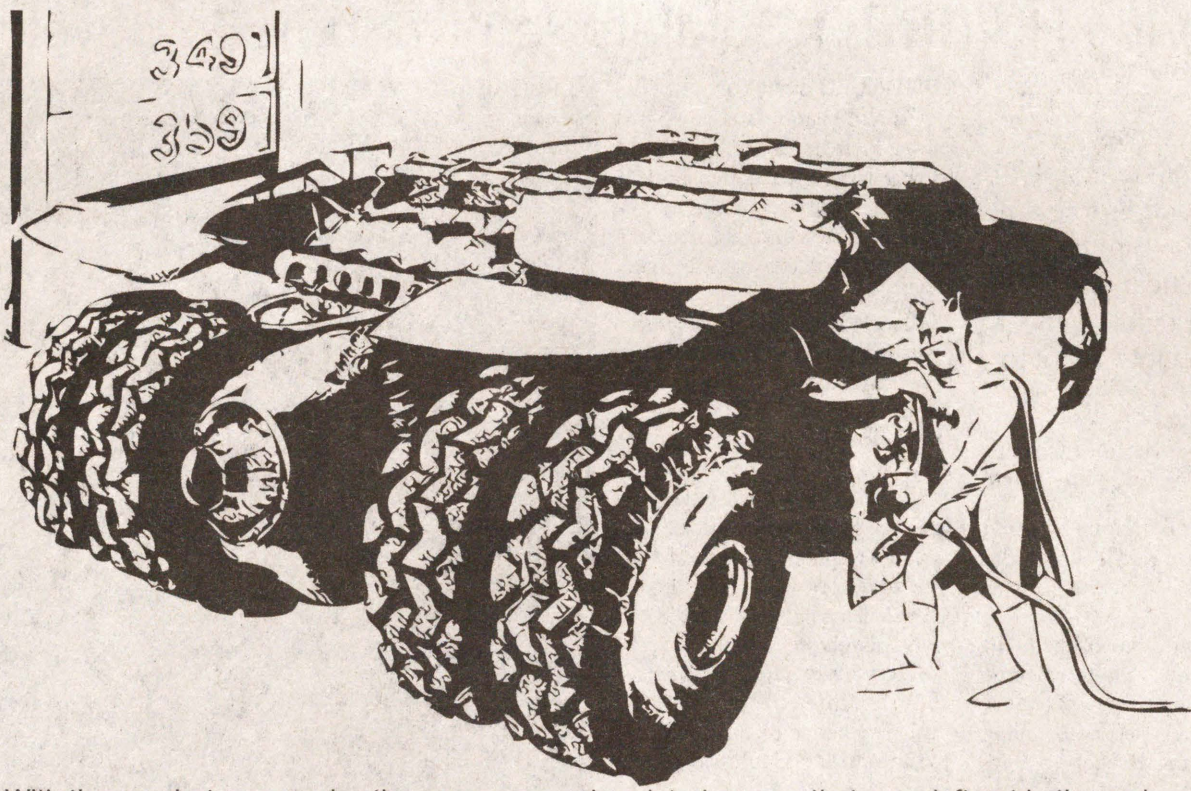
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LETTER POLICY

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.



With the new batman movies there were several updated scenes that were left out in the end.



HEATHER BROWNING

This Time Around

Past Struggles Boost Future

This is it. After three years, hundreds of battles with our flaky printer, multiple computer meltdowns, numerous bylines, thousands of Diet Cokes, a couple of migraines, several awards, umpteen sleepless nights, a dozen 5 a.m. trips to Bobby's for hash browns and omelets and endless hours spent cooped up in our office above the student center, this is my last issue of the Bison.

I am still somewhat in denial.

It's a crazy feeling knowing this time next year, someone else will be writing my column, editing my copy, laying out my pages, using my office key and sitting at my desk.

But, regardless of the surreal feeling surrounding this issue of the Bison, there is also a sense of completion. I have survived — and trust me, there were moments I didn't believe I would.

To say I have loved every minute of my work with student publications would be an outright lie and, to be honest, there have been times I have hated it. Several times I have wanted to just walk away from the drama and stress and just be finished. In fact, when I served as editor-in-chief last year, I tried to quit — twice.

"While the skills I have obtained in the past three years are important, the things I will cherish the most about my time at the Bison are the friendships I have made."

Thankfully, however, my "boss" and adviser Jeremy Beauchamp convinced me to stick around, and I am so very glad I did. My work at the Bison has taught me so many things in the last three years, none of which would have been possible to learn by simply reading a textbook.

There have been so many times that I felt my stories would never get written and my pages would never make it to press, and on several occasions, I have seriously debated simply putting a big smiley face in the middle of my layout and calling it a day. But in the end, everything has always worked out — sometimes it has just required a bit more work (and stress).

The skills I have learned through work with the Bison will stay with me the rest of my life. My writing and communications skills have improved a lot over the past few years, and I have learned so much about how to deal with people — and as a public relations practitioner, that is so very important.

While the skills I have obtained in the past three years are important, the things I will cherish the most about my time at the Bison are the friendships I have made. I have had the pleasure of working hand-in-hand with some amazing writers, designers, and photographers, and they have all blessed my life in different ways. And to me, it's the relationships I have developed with those people that mean the most.

It is difficult for me to envision life beyond the Bison, as well as life beyond Harding. In eight very short days, I will walk across the stage in the Ganus Athletic Center, shake hands with Dr. Burks (I'm pretty excited about that part) and accept the degree I have worked ridiculously hard for four years to obtain.

It still has not completely sunk in that I won't be back in August.

Like many of my fellow seniors, I am preparing to embark on a whole new chapter in my life, and I'm not sure I am ready. Honestly, I'm slightly intimidated.

The decisions I have to make over the next week have the potential to influence the direction my life will take, and that scares me to death.

But I know that, regardless of what the future holds, everything will work out in the end. It may not always be easy, and I am positive there will be times I want to just give up and quit, but in those times I will have to dig deep, press on and remember the most important lesson I have learned while at the Bison — things that are easy, usually aren't worth doing.

HEATHER BROWNING is the opinions editor for the Bison and may be contacted at hrowning@harding.edu

Breakfast Of Champions



MICHAEL CLAXTON

Guest Space

Just when I thought the 2008 presidential election couldn't get any stranger, I read Sunday that a waitress in Scranton, Penn., was trying to get rich off of an unusual souvenir from one of the candidates. After Senator Barack Obama left the diner where she worked, this entrepreneur saved a half-eaten waffle and sausage link from his plate and put them on eBay. The bidding reached over \$10,000 — remember, a whole waffle costs about \$2.99 plus tax — before the always-alert folks at eBay put a stop to this madness, citing a rule against selling perishable goods.

While news spread quickly of this attempt to cash in on celebrity leftovers, what did not get out was that this waffle was actually being consumed as part of an historic breakfast gathering of presidential hopefuls, past and present. A nearby patron wrote down as much of the conversation as he could on a series of napkins and sent them to me. Remember, you heard this story here first.

OBAMA: "Ok, let's get this breakfast meeting underway."

MCCAIN: "Come on, Barack, we can't all agree on what to order."

OBAMA: "Yes we can."

WAITRESS, COOK, and all OTHER CUSTOMERS in the restaurant repeat: "YES WE CAN!"

MCCAIN: "Wait a minute. We can't start without Hillary. Where is she?"

OBAMA: "She's under the table. A waiter dropped a glass, it made a loud noise, and she thought she was back in Bosnia."

MICHAEL DUKAKUS: "Hey Hillary, want to borrow my tank helmet?"

HILLARY (emerges from under table): "I'm ready to order. I've always been ready to order. I'll be

ready to order on Day One."

JOHN KERRY: "I say we order. No, on second thought, I say we don't order."

OBAMA: "Make up your mind, John."

KERRY: "I just wanted it on the record that I voted to order breakfast before I voted against ordering breakfast."

MCCAIN: "I hope they have a senior discount."

BOB DOLE: "Sorry, kid, you have to be over 80 get it."

HILLARY: "Under my health care plan, you wouldn't need a senior discount. Breakfast would be free."

OBAMA: "The prices here are outrageous. It's worse than Whole Foods."

STEVE FORBES: "That's why I've proposed a flat pricing system. We need to abolish the old menu and make everyone pay the same amount for breakfast."

JOHN EDWARDS: "Actually, there are two breakfasts... one for the working folks here in Scranton, and the other for the corporate fatcats. We get grits; they get crepes."

The WAITRESS comes to take everyone's order.

OBAMA: "I'll have a waffle, with sausage, and some hope."

MICHELLE OBAMA: "That was great, honey. For the first time in my life, I'm proud of breakfast."

AL GORE: "I'll have green eggs and ham. Make that a big ham."

MIKE HUCKABEE: "Takes one to know one. I'll have a turkey sand-

wich with Miracle Whip, and some hashbrowns and homespun clichés. But take your time — haste makes waste. You can't buy a dress till you've been invited to the prom. Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

RUDY GIULIANI: "But I thought Florida was a pretty good basket..."

RALPH NADER arrives: "Hey, guys. Can I join you?"

All the DEMOCRATS at the table in unison: "NO!!!!!"

MCCAIN: "OK. We need to say grace for the food. Barack, do you think your preacher friend could ask God to bless the food, the campaign, and America?"

OBAMA: "Shut up."

HILLARY: "This bickering is doing none of us any good. We need some law and order at this table."

FRED THOMPSON (arriving late): "Did somebody call me?"

WALTER MONDALE also walks in.

OBAMA whispers to HILLARY: "Who is that?"

HILLARY: "I don't know, but I'm buying his breakfast in case he's a Super Delegate."

The food arrives. The waitress won't let go of Obama's waffle — working-class people in Scranton often cling to breakfast and guns. Within minutes, a food fight erupts. Hillary goes back under the table to answer the red phone. The waitress brings the bill.

AL GORE: "Whoa! \$8.00 for breakfast!? Can we have a recount?"

That's all my correspondent was able to write down. For the record, McCain's half-finished Ensure shake is currently going for 18 cents on eBay.

MICHAEL CLAXTON is an assistant professor of English and a frequent contributor to the Bison and may be contacted at mclaxton1@harding.edu

Sharing Faith Begins With Lending Ear Trip Provides Higher Purpose To Cross-Cultural Relations

Today's world is shrinking in size in the best possible way. More young people, especially those around college age, are traveling to the far corners of the earth, taking with them an open mind and sense of adventure.

I caught the travel bug at age 15 when I served as a People to People student ambassador to Ireland, England and Wales for three weeks one summer. A 10-day tour through Spain with a side trip to Morocco was the highlight of my high school graduation. In college, I went on two spring break mission trips to Honduras, and later I lived in Chile for three months with Harding University Latin America. Recently I took an early-graduation-present vacation to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

During these travels, I had a chance to witness different cultures' religious practices and ideologies. I've walked through cities permeated with Catholic architecture and traditions, watched Muslim women enviously eye my style of dress and nonchalant attitude and sat cross-legged next to people bowing to golden Buddha statues in a bejeweled vat.

However, the most beneficial, cross-cultural, enlightening experience I've ever had required no passport for travel. My destination: Dallas. My travel mates: Dr. Monte Cox and almost 80 other upperclassmen. Dates: April 17 through 20.

We didn't cross into cowboy country for the great shopping or honky-tonk nightlife. Instead we toured seven religious institutions as the culmination of our Living World Religions Bible class. From Israel to Egypt, from Pakistan to India, I prac-



KRISTIN KELLEY

Guest Space

tically traveled across the globe while staying within the Dallas city limits.

Our itinerary included stops at a Hindu temple, Zen Center, Soko Gakki service, Sikh temple, Jewish synagogue, Muslim mosque and Bahá'í center. I met people from many different countries, but even more surprisingly, I met more people from my own Bible Belt background who had (mistakenly) found "truth" outside Christianity.

Although I'd studied these religions in class, actually meeting the people behind my textbook pages brought things into perspective. I listened as my classmates asked respectful questions of these practitioners of various beliefs. My heart broke when I heard their responses fall short of the truth. I cringed to hear them venerate divine prophets who were not Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Sitting among these people, eating meals with them and respectfully conversing with them benefited me just as much, if not more, as I hope it benefited them. I was reminded of how Jesus said he came to heal the sick, not the healthy. He spent time with sinners; he showed love to societal outcasts; however, he never deviated from the truth he knew. My resolve to be more open about my faith was renewed and intensified over the course of a weekend.

Now, as I graduate from college

and burst my Harding bubble in the next few weeks, I'll be able to carry my experiences with me. Armed with a little more knowledge and a respect for humankind, I won't feel the need to retreat from a man wearing a turban or avoid eye contact with a woman dressed in a berka. I'll have a clue as to what it means when someone tells me they're exploring Buddhism or that they follow the words of Bahá'u'lláh.

With more understanding, I hope to be able to find a way to relay the Word that became flesh, as Cox likes to emphasize, to these people. At the end of the trip, I realized a common thread in almost every belief paradigm: a creator God who reveals himself through a man on earth. Perhaps followers of these other religions aren't as far from the truth as I previously thought. After my Dallas experience, I have a renewed hope that God can reveal himself to them.

If I'd been more understanding of other religions' beliefs while I was traveling abroad, my experiences would have been enhanced greatly. I encourage every Christian to be armed with knowledge, compassion and boldness to talk to others who are different from them. Whether that means taking Cox's class or befriending a foreign student, take advantage of the resources at Harding so you can be equipped for helping others find the truth. Get out and explore the world, but don't forget to be a living testimony in everything you do.

KRISTIN KELLEY is a guest contributor to the Bison and may be contacted at kkelley1@harding.edu

THE QUOTE

“His comments were not only divisive and destructive, but I believe that they end up giving comfort to those who prey on hate.”

— BARACK OBAMA, who formally broke ties with his former pastor Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. on Tuesday.

SA President Outlines Plan For New Year

Well, the year has come to a close. Almost. Finals are finally here, and we can only hope our papers that are in the hands of teachers are what we wanted them to be.

Also at this time, we look at our out-going senior friends. For any seniors reading: All of you have meant so much to us. I hope you won't too quickly let us forget you. This might be an impersonal opinion section, but for each individual, we remember how close you were, and I hope you will let us express that to you properly.

There is no easy transition here, so I will just say that I am honored to have been elected as the SA President for 2008-09. However, that election and this school year are behind us now, and you will be glad to know we started planning for next year months ago. In recent days, that planning has taken on a formal nature. We have plenty of ideas we are hoping to implement over the summer and they will be ready for you when you return.

At this point, we do not know exactly what those ideas will look like, but we do know that we will have a full year to find out and we want everyone to be involved at some point throughout the year, and of course, as much as possible.

Well, let me start off with what we are not doing. For example, the

draining situation on campus is not going to magically disappear. We could write an article on why that is, where this school is built and other relevant information, but we will say that we will work with the school to improve the facilities on campus. Of course, with or without the SA's help, the school is building a wonderful new building on the south side of campus, remodeling dorms every year, and working other refurbishing projects. However, they cannot do their best unless they have input from us. Please, keep us informed about the facilities on campus. What needs to be improved? We have heard many comments about the laundry rooms, and Harding is already working on that. We encourage you to say a thank you to the administration and we will keep working to get more done.

Perhaps the topic we are most excited about is the spiritual direction of the campus. We hope that chapel serves this purpose. With some of our current plans, we hope to get input from 100 percent of the student body on what they would like to hear in chapel. Yes, chapel is required, so we believe chapel should be relevant to the topics students want to hear. We can have engaging speakers who talk about interesting, student-selected topics. That is what chapel should be. Chapel is consistently good now; we



MICHAEL CROUCH

Guest Space

hope to work with those who plan it to make chapel amazing daily. We have already spent a good portion of time talking about subjects in this area and how we can integrate them into others, so I won't spoil them all now. There is a lot of good that we are hoping to accomplish.

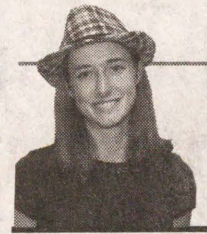
Communication. This is a big topic. “Let me explain. No, there is too much. Let me sum up.” Have you ever been part of a group that could not get the message out about a really great event you had spent a lot of time planning? Or how about that time you missed that really cool event because you did not even know it was going on? That can stop, and we intend to help stop it. Also, there needs to be more networking, more interaction on campus. In our modern culture, the name of the game is creating connections and synergy. We are already doing so much right — think how much further we could go.

How about what we are already doing? We will keep the good things going. Service projects have been a

high point for us over the past three years. That will not slow down at all. We hope to not only have short-term, “alms-giving”-type service projects, but also sustainable, “Jubilee” projects that change lives for years to come and the eternity that is in us all. Which leads to one last point.

The SA, or the Student Association. Really, it is just a technical name for the Students, or we could just call us the S. We are an exceptional group — all 4,000 of us at the undergraduate level, filled with talent and potential, hopes and dreams, laughter and tears ... OK, now I'm waxing poetic. Basically, we need to pursue a holistic relationship with God. We are already “good people” for the most part. We can always be better. The teachers will challenge you academically, and we hope to help you with that. Chapel and devotionals will challenge you spiritually, and we hope to help you with that. Relationships will challenge you emotionally, and we ... well, we really can't help you with that; that is what your friends are for. We will do whatever we can to make your time here wonderful, uplifting and altogether good. Thanks for your time, and I look forward to the year ahead.

MICHAEL CROUCH will serve as SA President for the 2008-2009 school year. He may be contacted at mcrouch@harding.edu.



AMANDA PRUITT

The Fish Wrap

Throwing Away The Label Maker

Labeling makes life easy. With only a few basic words, we can understand how the world works. Or how we'd like to think the world works.

For children, the world is full of labels. Fires (and stoves and irons) are “hot,” while ice is “cold,” Obedience to adults is “good,” and any form of disobedience is “bad.” After jumping in a mud puddle, clothes transform from “clean” to “dirty.” A snail sliming its way up a tree is “slow,” but a racehorse pounding around the track is “fast.”

Pretty basic, right? Unfortunately, many people fail to graduate from this world of basic labels. Not everything can be defined in stark terms, but even the smartest can be guilty of bad label making, guilty of trying to force the square block through the round hole.

Oh, and of course, when people grow up, the labels change and become the terms uttered every few minutes on talk radio or a 24-hour news station. How about these:

Someone is either liberal or conservative. Someone is either a Democrat or Republican. Someone is either right or wrong.

The problem is that these labels don't really help anyone, and their use generates more harm than good, especially on a campus like Harding University, a place where the ultimate, eternal goals should cover a multitude of political differences.

Life is far too complicated to break everything down in terms of liberal and conservative, yet those are the fighting words everyone's determined to use these days as if everything fits entirely into one category or another.

Along the way, how did the word “liberal” come to mean “secular” or how did “conservative” come to mean “Christian” in the eyes and minds of so many? The definitions change from person to person, but this is the hard line so many have drawn.

Really, they're just empty, confusing labels. However, the words “liberal” and “conservative” have done a good job to divide and fragment the student body this school year in ways no one could predict. Sides can't compromise on words that have no meaning.

As editor this year, I've heard my share of both compliments and complaints, but perhaps the most acidic claim I fielded all year was the one that the Bison was “liberal garbage.”

It all makes sense, doesn't it? All popular media has a supposed liberal slant. The Bison is a form of media. Ergo, the Bison must be liberal garbage.

That's funny. I never recall promoting a liberal or conservative political platform within the 12-page issues. I don't remember pushing one party over another. I also have trouble remembering to remind all the editors to exclusively seek out and interview radical idealists on campus.

If anything, I entered the year wanting to be equitable, honest and balanced. As a staff, we strove to be fair because there is a world beyond the labels. In every story, there are two sides (if not more), and I wanted to present the unbiased campus. While I believe a newspaper should raise important issues, it should not necessarily take sides while doing so.

It was a lofty goal, and it's safe to say we weren't always perfect. We're students. We're learning. Of course, even professionals aren't perfect because fairness is a very thin line.

The Bison should be the story of the students. A story of the faculty and staff. A story of the times. This newspaper is a chronicle, not a piece of propaganda.

Someday, I hope we can judge ideas, people and news on what they really are and not by what label seems to fit best. Maybe that someday will come tomorrow; maybe it's happening already.

Liberal? Conservative? How about “just”? Telling life just as it is.

Since people these days have to put a name to everything, a label is probably something I can't escape. If I must have one, as a journalist, I can only hope these: fair, responsible and just.

AMANDA PRUITT serves as the editor in chief for the 2007-2008 Bison. She may be contacted at apruitt@harding.edu

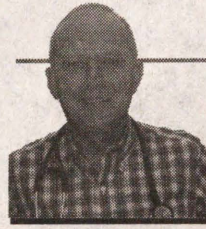
Don't Soak Up Too Much Sun

At the moment, my bald head resembles a controlled burn gone badly.

After four hours of working in the sun without a hat, remnants of scorched scalp are flaking off like ashes. I wonder how many times one must suffer from sunburn before he learns from it?

While the sun provides healthful benefits, too much of good thing has its price. Sunlight is composed of ultraviolet-A and ultraviolet-B rays. Both types of UV radiation contribute to the loss of elasticity of the skin and increase the risk for skin cancers.

Light by any other name is still light, and there is little consolation in choosing to get your tan-lines from artificial sunlight. Although some tanning beds may emphasize the use of less harmful UV-A rays, the accumulation of ultraviolet-A radiation over time can be just as damaging as UV-B rays. The decision to plug in your i-Pod



MIKE JUSTUS, M.D.

House Call

and climb into a fry-pod at the local tanning salon offers no protection from UV injury.

Genetically, individuals with fair skin, red or blonde hair color, and light-colored eyes are at greater risk for skin cancer. Any of us who frequently played in the sun as children and may have suffered serious sunburn should have an increased concern for developing cancer. Episodic, intense sun injury seems to be more predictable for skin malignancy than chronic, outdoor exposure.

Sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least 15 should be applied

to all areas of exposed skin at least 30 minutes prior to activity in sunlight. Reapply sunscreen every 2 to 3 hours during periods of heavy perspiration or swimming.

Although sunscreens help to prevent squamous cell skin cancer there is no data to support a reduction in the risk for basal cell skin cancer or melanoma with their use. In fact, the potential for developing skin cancer of any type may increase with extended time in the sun because of a false sense of protection with sunscreen.

The best protection from sun injury is to avoid time outdoors when ultraviolet intensity is at its peak. Outside activity from sunrise to 10 a.m. and from 4 p.m. until sunset offers the least risk from ultraviolet radiation. For vacationers who enjoy beach baking, avoidance of the sun during mid-day not only reduces the risk for burned skin but also offers the advantage of shorter lines at lunch dives.

By wearing clothing made with tightly woven fabrics and sporting a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, exposure to UV radiation can be reduced. While working or relaxing in the shade minimizes UV damage, cloudy skies offer no protection, and UV rays reflected off of water, sand and snow can be just as damaging as direct sunlight.

As the sun sets on the semester, I thank you for your continued interest in this column. Hopefully, our “less technical” look at medicine has offered useful information for improving your personal health.

Now, if you will excuse me, I need to move to the shade before my ears ignite.

DR. MIKE JUSTUS is a Harding graduate and a family practice doctor in Searcy. He is a frequent contributor to the Bison.

Smart Eating Facilitates Healthy Lifestyles

Guys, ask any girl you know if she's ever been on a diet. The majority of girls that you talk to will say throughout their lifetimes they have tried at least three different diets. If you asked them how many of those diets worked, many of them would answer “zero.”

Girls, if you asked a guy if they'd ever been on a diet, whether to lose weight or gain muscle, and they were honest with you, many of their answers would be yes. For the guys who quit eating real food and switched to protein shakes and bars, how many of them would say that their weight stayed off when they started eating practically again? Probably zero.

So, why does this weight keep coming back? If I had to guess, I'd say because these “diets” we are trying are not realistic.

Do you think there is a magical diet

out there that involves altering what you eat, not exercising, and losing weight?

If you do you are wrong.

Why live your life hassling with being on a diet?

The answer to the diet dilemma is living a healthier lifestyle. If you are doing that, it is possible to eat what you want, to a certain extent, as long as you are burning more calories than you take in throughout the day.

If people will learn that it is important to eat healthier, exercise and drink water, the United States would be a “smaller place.” It is the seventh most obese country for males and the 13th for women, according to the world health organization Web site. Some say it's because we don't have healthy choices in America and we are too busy and too on the go to stop and eat a healthy meal, but the healthy choices are

there if you look for them, and they are sometimes more simple than ordering chicken crispers at Chili's.

If you have made a habit out of unhealthy living, there is a way out of it. Take it one day at a time and do what works for you. Maybe it is cutting out all drinks but water and still getting to eat whatever you want. Or maybe it's cutting out fried foods. Different things work for different people.

Not only does healthy eating make you feel better physically, but it also helps mentally and emotionally. It is important to release those endorphins in your body and the most important way is through exercise. When you are eating healthy and burning calories, you cannot help but feel better about yourself. Within the world we live in it is important to get as much help as you can to make yourself feel better.

Sub-Genres Killed The Radio Star

I turned on the radio in my car the other day. Big mistake.

Every city that gets involved with radio stations usually starts with one, I would imagine, but as the population grows, so does the demand for different kinds of radio-based entertainment. Stations come up out of nowhere, splinter from existing entities or fall apart and reincarnate as something that better reflects the tastes of whoever's out there listening. But if you give your town enough time, one station will always appear without fail: the alternative rock radio station. Unfortunately, I was tuned in that day.

Pushing aside what all these inevitable musical tumors have in common (crude DJs with fake West coast accents, jarring non-sequitur sound bits inbetween songs, the claim to be the home of “new rock” even though most of their playlist is from the early '90s), the thing that bothers me the most about these alternative rock radio stations is their “alternative”

label for the music they choose. An “alternative” to what? Regular rock? I searched the radio dial for the alternative to alternative rock and found some possible candidates: classic rock, soft rock, hard rock, “el rock” (Spanish-language network), but no station was simply playing “rock” music.

My fears were confirmed when I looked up rock music on allmusic.com and found a list of genres multiple pages long. There were categories and sub-categories, chapters and verses, cousins twice removed — those genres that you only see every other year at the family reunion. What was I afraid of? That we have gone absolutely crazy in our efforts to categorize rock music, and have ended up with a label-overload.

Now I'm not opposed to bands with enough creativity and courage to try something new with their music. In fact, if you didn't have a stupid label like “cowpunk” or “hot rod revival” attached to your name, I might have lent you an ear. A creative sound is something that musicians come up

with to try to draw attention to themselves in their notoriously-competitive industry. Music critics and so-called “experts” come up with creative labels for that music in order to draw attention to themselves, to appear more credible and to have something fresh to throw out in a battle of musical elitism. You haven't heard of that new band that's revolutionizing the avant-prog genre? Do you live in a cave?

So why does any of this bother me? Other than the fact that all these people arguing about whether a band fits into a certain genre that somebody coined last week sounds ridiculous, it can't be good for rock music. Bands have been making different sounds for as long as there have been ... well, bands, but now we're trying to give a name to every individual sound. We've developed a niche for just about every noise a musician can make. If they don't fit into one niche, then we have the hyphen. What might have been my favorite new rock band just became another third wave-post-

hardcore-bubblegum-electro-industrial-psycho-billy revival band, with no pickles and a large curly fry. I'm already lost.

What happens if bands start trying to fit themselves into these niches? What happens when kids stop dreaming about becoming rock stars and start dreaming about starting a “shoegaze” band (I couldn't make that up)? It all points to a lack of innovation; when musicians start to pigeon-hole themselves into little sub-categories that demand adherence to a certain sound, the intelligent listener suffers.

So basically, don't turn off your radio. Keep listening, but don't call it alternative rock. Let musicians make different noises to their hearts' content, and keep your labels to yourself. In the end, as one famous musician said, there are only two kinds of music: the good kind, and the other kind.

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Forbes Speaks About Economy Spring ASI Series Concludes

By SHANE O'CONNOR
student reporter

Steve Forbes spoke at Harding University, on April 24 about the state of the American economy and what he thinks can and should be done to prevent it from crashing.

Forbes, the CEO of Forbes magazine and also a two-time Republican candidate in the U.S. presidential primaries, is well-known as a successful business person. He addressed the anxiety felt by many Americans as the U.S. economy finds itself in rough waters.

"We have hit a road bump, but if we step back for a moment

we may see that we are in a Golden Era," Forbes said.

Compared to the rest of the world, America is still doing very well.

Forbes said that although China is growing rapidly, from 2004 to 2007 the American economy "grew China," which means the American economy grew in three years what it has taken China to do in hundreds.

"America's economy is still better than China's," said Nicole Tan, a Harding University graduate student and a student from China. "Compared to China, it works well."

According to Forbes, in the 2000s, America has continued to create jobs and has increased productivity faster than in the '90s. He said that if one combines all the debt American's hold and compare it to their assets, bonds and stocks, America is positive 30 trillion, meaning they have far more worth than debt. Ad-



Forbes

"We have hit a road bump, but if we step back for a moment we may see that we are in a Golden Era."

Steve Forbes
two-time presidential
candidate and CEO of Forbes
magazine

ditionally, Forbes said the median income has increased 40 percent over the last 10 years.

"Times go in cycles. I don't panic," said Wheeler Parsons, a Harding student who attended the speech.

There are several reasons the American economy is what it has become. One of the reasons Forbes spent a lot of time speaking is the Bush administration's weak dollar policy.

"We need a strong dollar for economic strength; we've got to strengthen the dollar," Forbes said.

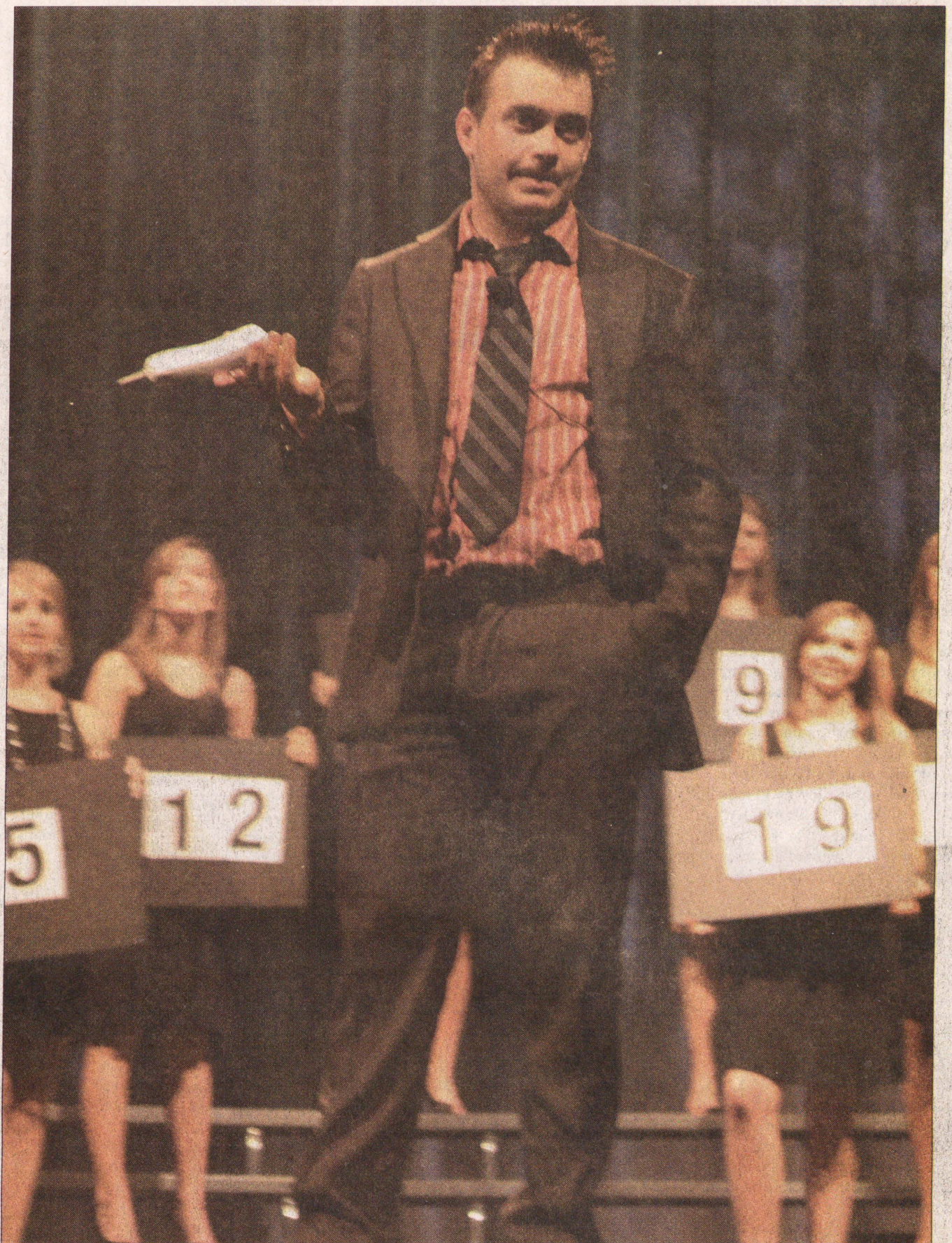
There are several ways to determine the strength of a currency. Forbes said all one needs to do is look at commodity prices. All commodity prices going in one direction indicates strength or weakness. Gas, electric, water, etc., increasing in cost indicates a weakness in currency, whereas the reverse happening indicates too much strength. Another indicator is gold prices.

"The unknowns are what are scary," Forbes said. "Money should have a stable value."

With so many unknowns, it's difficult to know how the American people feel about the current state of their economy. Many show signs of anxiousness, but others remain optimistic.

"I think we'll come out of it," Parsons said. "What have we not come out of?"

Deal Or No Deal



TAYLOR DURHAM | The Bison

Senior Ryan Davenport portrays Howie Mandell as the host of Harding's version of "Deal Or No Deal." The show took place in the Benson Auditorium, and the winner received \$5,000.

VARNER: Dean Harbors Passion For Car Restoration

CONTINUED from 1a

classic car enthusiast, my heart started racing as I felt the sheer power of the estimated 475 horses exploding underneath the hood. Varner purchased the car in 2004 from its owner, who had already begun to restore it. Varner said the car is really a never-ending project.

"It's definitely fun and fast," Varner said. "It's my ultimate dream car, but it's also one of those I will just keep working on over the years. You're never really finished with a car like that."

Varner said that while he has loved working on cars and trucks for as long as he can remember, he thinks his passion for the hobby really grew after his four-year career as a kicker for Harding's football team drew to a close in 1988.

"I think working on cars was something I did for fun since I didn't have football anymore," Varner said. "Golf was never my thing, so I started restoring cars. It gave me something to do."

Varner began his first restoration in 1999 on a 1971 Ford pickup truck. In May of 2000, after spending more than 1,000 hours completing the project, Varner loaded his truck on a trailer and left for the F-100 Super Nationals, an annual gathering of truck enthusiasts in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Varner said out of more than a 1,000 trucks, his received one of 50 trophies handed out at the event. However, Varner said he learned an important lesson from his first big restoration project.

"I probably only put a total of 200 miles on it," Varner said of his '71 Ford, which he sold in 2001. "I learned from that point you have to build them to enjoy them. Sure, you might chip the paint, but it's no fun leaving it in the garage."

Out of all the projects Varner has finished, he said his favorite will always be a 1941 Farmall BN tractor, which his grandfather bought in 1947 after World War II.

Varner was born in Charleston, W. Va., in 1966 and grew up in the Ohio valley. He said he has fond memories from his childhood of spending the summers and

weekends on his grandparents' farm and riding on the classic Farmall tractor. In the fall of 2004, Varner made his way to the farm, which now belongs to his brother Steve, to load up the tractor and bring it to his home for a complete restoration.

After a few months of work, Varner returned the '41 Farmall to its home in May 2005. Varner unloaded the tractor, which he had given a fully-restored engine and a fresh coat of paint, about a half mile from where the farm sits. After piling his three children, Kelsey, Austin and Blair, onto the tractor, Varner drove it up to the farm, which hosted a large group of friends and family eager to see the finished project.

"That project was pretty special to me," Varner said. "The sentimental value that goes along with restoring something I grew up around as a young boy is something I wouldn't trade for the world."

Varner continues to work on various projects in his shop which he built specifically for his hobby. Varner said several friends and students who also enjoy the hobby have used his shop in the past to work on projects of their own. Varner's current project is a 1978 CJ5 Jeep, which he bought in Searcy this past year. In the back corner of his shop awaits his next big project, a 1961 Ford pickup truck he plans on turning into a Mercury clone.

Varner says his wife Jennifer couldn't be more supportive of his favorite pastime. Varner also enjoys including his two young sons, Austin and Blair, in his hobby.

"My boys get to come help me and share in some of the projects," Varner said. "They get to turn wrenches and have some fun. It's a good bonding experience for them."

Varner said working on old cars and trucks is something he's not likely to give up anytime soon.

"I'm a project-oriented person and working on cars gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment," Varner said. "It's the best therapy in the world: my cares and worries seem to disappear when I'm working on a project."

'Green' Committee Makes Plans

By BLAKE MATHEWS
assistant news editor

Just as the planet we all live on never gets a day off, Harding's new Environmental Stewardship committee has been hard at work researching and coordinating efforts to make the Harding experience a "greener" one.

Currently, the committee is made up of 10 faculty and staff members and two students. Headed by Dr. Jim Carr, Harding's executive vice president, each of the committee members brings different ideas, perspectives and talents to the table.

"We need some people from Communication that can get the word out, some people from Business that know strategies, we need some people in Biology that know health concerns," said Dr. Mike James, chair of the Communication department and committee member.

He emphasized the need for input from a variety of sources, as taking less from and giving back more to the environment is something everyone should participate in.

The committee has been working on a list of environmentally-minded actions that Harding can undertake next semester. The list is by no means the committee's answer to everything, Carr said, but it will get the ball rolling by raising awareness and building confidence.

"What we want to do is take something on that we feel confident we can accomplish and then reinvigorate the committee in the first part of the 2009 calendar year," Carr said. "Then we'll take on some new ideas."

"Dr. Carr really wanted us to come out with practical ideas that we could implement on campus," Rosa Colon, one of the committee's student members said.

Originally from a community that practiced recycling, Colon said she was frustrated by Harding's lack of "real opportunities to recycle." Frustration gave way to inspiration, however, when Colon heard about Martina Eddy, who organized and implemented her own recycling program in

Shores Hall.

"Whereas I just talked to everyone about the issue of recycling, she actually acted upon it. I mean how great is that?" Colon said.

She and Eddy are now both on the Environmental Stewardship committee, and they continue to encourage students to get involved rather than simply talk about it.

But before anything is made official, the best way to get involved is to start talking. The list of practical starting points was developed through brainstorming sessions among committee members, along with suggestions and points offered by students at open forums. Hosted by James and Reet Cronk, a professor in the business department, these forums allowed anyone to influence policies that could go on to change student life at Harding. The committee's environmental to-do list for next year reads as such.

1) Create a logo to help students get comfortable with recycling. The committee's logo was designed by Matt McCormick and has been displayed in chapel, but anyone who might have forgotten what it looks like need not worry. The logo will appear on everything associated with Harding's recycling efforts, like recycling bins.

2) Add a link on Harding's Web site to help students stay informed and to provide an avenue for anyone who wishes to contribute ideas.

3) Place new thermostat controls in the buildings and dorms to help conserve energy. Thermostats give a degree of control over our indoor environments, but they can be a nuisance and waste energy when not everyone agrees on how the room should feel.

"Some people will turn the thermostat all the way up, and then they'll leave the room, and the next person that comes in will say 'It's burning up in here!' and crank it all the way down," James said.

In either case, the extreme settings on the thermostat use up more energy. The newer controls

will give temperature offenders fewer options and ease the load on the air conditioner.

"Instead of having one that goes from 55 to 90, we'll have one that goes from 65 to 75," James said.

4) Work with the Student Association to start a student-run environmental committee, as well as appoint dorm representatives to encourage and inform other students about environmental stewardship. According to Carr, there are no plans to pay these dorm representatives at this time.

5) Plant trees at Harding Farm and possibly at Harding Park. The environmental benefits provided by trees can be felt by humans and animals alike, but in the case of Harding Farm, a piece of land about 15 miles west of Searcy that was given to the university, they can also bring in money. There are plans to use the land as a tree farm, where trees are grown, harvested and sold for lumber, and then replanted.

6) Place recycling bins around campus. Although the main focus will be on paper, plastic and aluminum, bins will also be set out for plastic and aluminum. According to Danny DeRamus, Harding's director of physical resources, plans for roughly 175 recycling bins placed strategically across campus have been made. To assure that students remember to put materials where they need to go, DeRamus said that each of the three types of bins, paper, plastic and aluminum, will have a differently-shaped opening on top. Ideas suggested by students at the open forums opened up the possibility for recycling bins on every floor of the dorms, which would provide students on the higher floors with a convenient alternative to throwing all their waste materials in the same trash bag and hauling it downstairs to the trash room.

7) Consider using food waste as compost. Currently, all food that students leave on their plates after they finish eating is thrown away. If this new plan is implemented, the waste food would be turned into compost and used to enrich

the soil.

8) Work with faculty members to develop new ways of showing better environmental stewardship. The suggested examples ranged from using both sides of a sheet of paper when printing out tests to taking the entire test online and not using paper at all. Cronk said more teachers may choose to go online with their textbooks, using a service that provides course materials to registered students for a specified amount of weeks. The service would save large amounts of paper and possibly save students some money, but Cronk said that online textbooks wouldn't be ideal for every department.

9) Clean up Gin and Springs Creek. The two creeks are littered with garbage, which can come up and collect on the banks when the water level rises. Wildlife is also at risk from the buffet of discarded fast food containers that float along with fish, turtles and frogs.

Other plans are in the works besides the ones listed here, and students are encouraged to look around and see areas where they might be better stewards of the environment that we all use. However, the committee and others must carefully consider any changes before they are implemented. Even plans made with the best of intentions might use up too much of another important resource: money.

"Sometimes it's not good stewardship of other people's money, so we gotta be real careful on how we save energy," DeRamus said. "It could cost us sometimes, and sometimes we may just have to pay the cost."

DeRamus said he is working to ensure that the committee makes the best possible use of what funding it has.

Those who wish to get involved with environmental stewardship can join the SA's environmental committee next semester, or they can volunteer to serve as an environmental dorm rep. Students with ideas and suggestions about what should, does, or is not working can use the link to the committee on Harding's Webpage when it becomes available.



May 2, 2008

Hall In A Year's Work

By BRANDON HIGGINS
sports editor

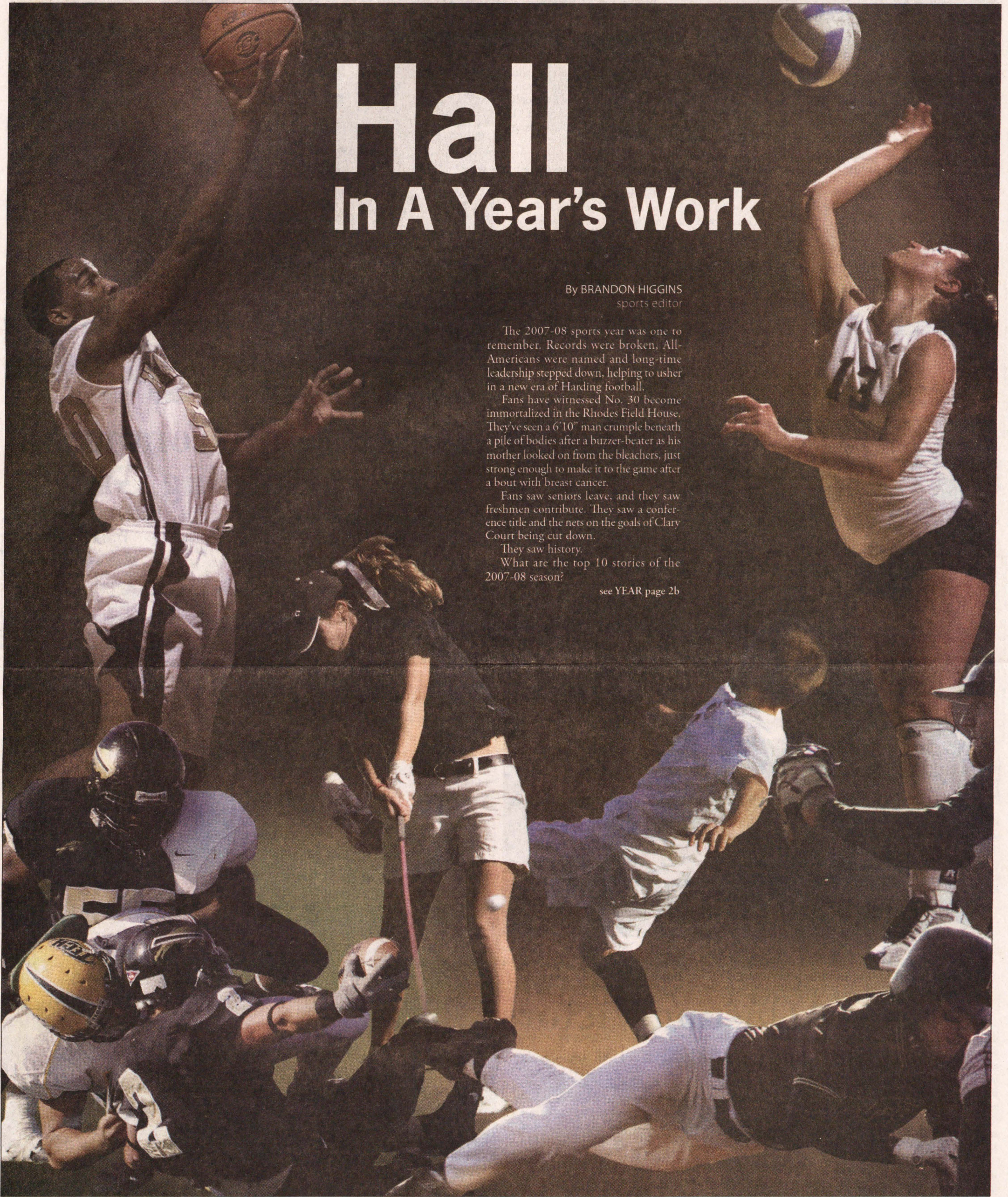
The 2007-08 sports year was one to remember. Records were broken, All-Americans were named and long-time leadership stepped down, helping to usher in a new era of Harding football.

Fans have witnessed No. 30 become immortalized in the Rhodes Field House. They've seen a 6'10" man crumple beneath a pile of bodies after a buzzer-beater as his mother looked on from the bleachers, just strong enough to make it to the game after a bout with breast cancer.

Fans saw seniors leave, and they saw freshmen contribute. They saw a conference title and the nets on the goals of Clary Court being cut down.

They saw history.
What are the top 10 stories of the 2007-08 season?

see YEAR page 2b



Photos by CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison

Illustration by LEAH FAUST | The Bison

Spiders And Deer Meat Prove Woeful For Athletes

BRANDON HIGGINS

The Payoff Pitch

As all baseball fans are aware, injuries are part of the game. We all hear about torn ACLs and broken bones, but I've compiled a few of my favorite baseball injuries that are a bit on the ridiculous side.

In 2005, Clint Barmes was vying for the National League batting title and a possible Rookie of the Year award when he broke his collarbone. In baseball, collarbone injuries don't regularly happen; however, Barmes decided to make

an exception to this trend by falling down the stairs in his house.

That's not the funny part, by any stretch.

Why did Barmes fall down the steps, you ask? Well, because he was carrying a slab of deer meat up the stairs and tumbled to clavicle-breaking doom.

How's this for a headline: Bambi bests Barmes. That, my friends, is ego obliteration via aliteration.

For the next freak injury, I'll start with a riddle. What is big, goes bump in the night and is peppered with wounds from glass fragments? The answer is, of course, Glenallen Hill.

Hill, a former baseball player, once missed several

games because he had several cuts from falling through a glass table after rolling out of bed one night. I know you want to know how or why he fell out of bed, don't you? I can't resist.

Hill fell out of bed because he was having a nightmare about being covered in spiders. He wasn't having a nightmare about being shot at. He wasn't having a nightmare about running from a murderer. The man rolled out of his bed and fell to a gleaming abyss that welcomed him by thrusting shards of glass into his flesh. Simply stunning.

The next injury on this dubious list involves a bicycle. Let me ask you a few questions first. Let's say you're riding a

bike and a human obstacle presents itself in front of you. You have three choices for a reaction. Will you swerve to the side to avoid the human? Will you press the brakes and stop before encountering the human? Or will you throw common sense to the side and ride your bicycle directly into the human being in front of you?

If you ask Moises Alou, he'll undoubtedly choose the latter.

In 2000, Alou injured his knee when he ran over his child with a bicycle. At least he's efficient with his injuries. He took the courtesy of injuring his son along with himself. I'm glad to see that baseball is still a game shared between father and son.

Alou might as well just

make a ramp with other children. He could ride his bike up the human ramp in order to jump into a pile of other children. Why keep the fun to yourself? Share the wealth, Moises. Share the wealth.

Alou's lack of common sense can be rivaled only by Marty Cordova.

In 2002, Cordova fell asleep in a tanning bed and scorched his face so badly that he had to miss a week of games.

I can sympathize with Cordova. I mean, 162 games during a season just doesn't give you enough sunlight. He had no choice but to roast his face with the fury of 1,000 suns. Don't waste your time lying out on your multi-million dollar beach-front property.

Nuke that body. Nuke it good, and don't miss out on any sleep while you're doing it. Hibernate and incinerate. That's my motto.

So what is today's lesson? I think it's pretty obvious.

Don't watch "Arachnophobia" before sleeping with a bag of deer meat, or you'll fall out of bed onto a bicycle so you can run over your child, flinging you into a tanning bed where you'll char your face.

That's simple enough, don't you think?

BRANDON HIGGINS serves as the sports editor for the 2007-2008 Bison. He may be contacted at bhiggins@harding.edu

YEAR: Athletics Enjoy Successful Season

1. Matt Hall gets his number retired. Matt Hall's No. 30 jersey was retired after he led Harding to a 73-70 win over Southern Arkansas to clinch the Gulf South West title. On Feb. 28, Hall scored 27 points to go along with five rebounds and five assists. The DeQueen, Ark., native finished his Harding career ranked second on the school's all-time scoring list with 2,227 points, which gave him 19.2 points per game for his career. Hall is also the GSC's all-time leader in free throws made.

2. Bisons play on national television. The Bison basketball team beat Henderson State 72-59 on national television Feb. 23 at the Rhodes Field House. The game, which was broadcast on CSTV, was available in more than 28 million homes. Five Bisons scored in double figures, led by Matt Hall's 18 points. The win gave Harding a chance to clinch the GSC West title five days later.

3. Tribble out, Huckleba in. On Sept. 11, Randy Tribble resigned two games into the season after spending 14 seasons as Harding's head football coach. Ronnie Huckleba was named interim head coach on the same day, and then permanent head coach Oct. 15. Huckleba led the Bisons to a 6-4 season.

4. Daniels wins Super Bowl. Former Harding linebacker Tank

Daniels helped lead the New York Giants to a 17-14 victory over the undefeated New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. Daniels, who is the first Harding player to play in the NFL, recorded 237 tackles, 34 tackles for loss and 17.5 sacks in his career as a Bison. He also forced 10 fumbles, intercepted seven passes and recovered four fumbles while at Harding.

5. Men's basketball wins GSC West title. The Harding men's basketball team won its first Gulf South Conference West title Feb. 28 against Southern Arkansas. Matt Hall hit 14 consecutive free throws on his way to a game-high 27 points. It took the Bisons 50 years and more than 1,400 games to secure their first conference title.

6. Men go to NCAA tournament. After making a run to the finals of the Gulf South Conference tournament, the Harding Bisons were selected as the No. 6 seed in the South Region of the NCAA Tournament. This marked the second time the Bisons made an appearance in the national tournament, having lost to Henderson State in the first round in 2003. The Bisons met Tampa in the first round, falling 86-77 to end their season.

7. Homecoming football game. After 117 points and 1,206 total yards of offense were recorded, the Bisons beat Arkansas Tech 62-55 on Nov. 3 in front of a

homecoming crowd of 5,600. Junior quarterback David Knighton dented the Harding record books in the game by completing 46 of 62 passes for 529 yards and seven touchdowns. Knighton also rushed for the game-winning touchdown, capping off a game that earned him National Offensive Player of the Week honors.

8. Knighton rewrites record books. David Knighton plastered his name all over the Harding record book in 2007, breaking 23 school records to add to the two records he already had. Knighton is now Harding's career leader in passes, completions, yards and touchdowns, and he'll add to those records next season. Knighton holds 10 career records at Harding to go along with 11 single-season records and four single-game records.

9. Kirwa dominates in track. Freshman Daniel Kirwa had one of the best track seasons in Harding history. The Eldoret, Kenya native won a national title in the mile, and he also set school records in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter races.

10. Washburn breaks soccer scoring record. Senior Kendyl Washburn scored her 34th career goal against Austin Peay on Sept. 7, breaking Lori Boren's career goals record of 33. Washburn finished her career with 48 goals after scoring a school-record 17 goals in 2007.



Athlete of the Year

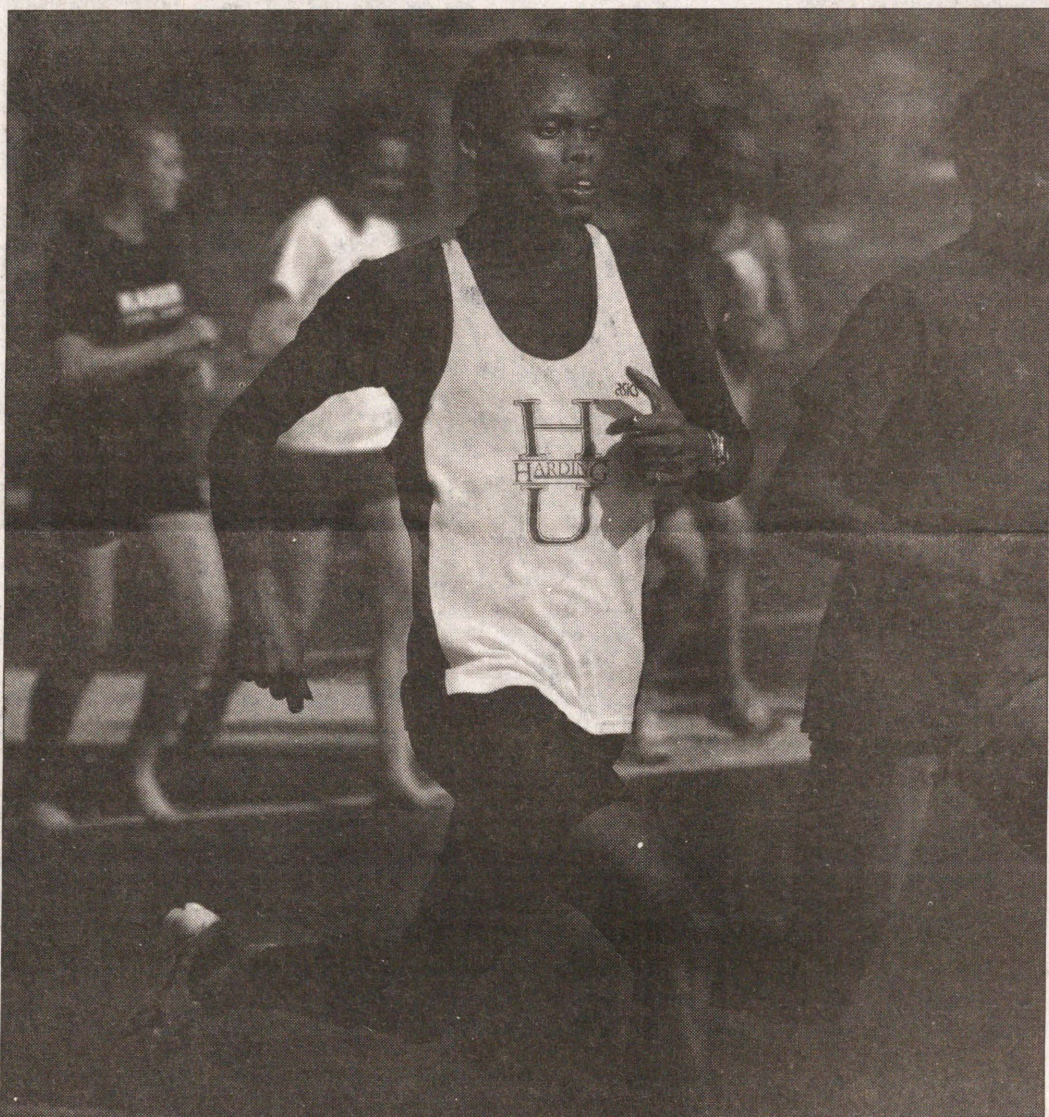
Matt Hall

- Garnered third team All-America honors after leading the Gulf South in scoring.

- Named GSC West Player of the Year for the third time.

- Second in Harding history in points scored (2,227) and career scoring average (19.2)

CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison



CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison

Freshman Daniel Kirwa warms up during an April 29 practice at Ted Lloyd Track. Kirwa has had one of the best seasons in Harding history and has been compared to Jim Crawford, one of Harding's greats.

Kirwa Being Compared To Past Harding Greats

By CHRISTOPHER O'DELL student reporter

Harding runner Daniel Kirwa has had one of the most successful track seasons in Bison history, and the season isn't over yet.

The freshman has set school records in the 10,000 and 5,000 meters, and has even won a national championship in his first year running for the Bisons. The success Kirwa has enjoyed so far this season is drawing comparisons to past Harding greats, including Jim Crawford.

Crawford's former track coach, Ted Lloyd, said as great as Crawford was, Kirwa can rightfully be compared to his former runner.

"Jim was a world class runner," Lloyd said. "As far as I can tell, Daniel will be too."

Crawford still holds the school record in the mile, which he ran in a time of 4:01.02 in 1968. He stood as the only Bison to win the national indoor mile title for nearly 40 years until Kirwa won the event earlier this season. Although Kirwa compares to Crawford in many aspects of his game, the one area Kirwa holds over Crawford

is long distance running.

"Daniel is a much better longer distance runner than Jim ever was," Lloyd said.

Kirwa's versatility is one of the things that makes him such a unique runner for the Bisons. He has asked his coach, Head Track Coach Steve Guymon, if he can run the 1500 and the 10,000 at nationals. The events are two very diverse competitions, with very few runners competing in both. Guymon said Kirwa's talent is what enables him to excel in both of the events.

"He just has that much talent," Guymon said. "He has such a range that it's incredible. Not many people can do that."

Kirwa is in only his first season running for the Bisons. If the early success Kirwa has achieved so far is any sign of what's to come, Kirwa might surpass every runner in Bison history.

"Jim improved a lot after he first got to Harding," Lloyd said. "Daniel is still young so he still has plenty of time to improve."

Guymon said Kirwa's success on the track isn't the only thing the freshman brings to his team.

"The thing I think he brings

Daniel Kirwa

- Won the national title in the mile race.
- Broke the Harding records for the 10,000 and 5,000 meters.
- Garnered two All-America honors during for 2008.

more to the team is his attitude, his friendliness, and his support of other people," Guymon said.

Kirwa is widely known among his teammates as an encouraging and inspiring teammate who motivates even the established runners to work their hardest. Senior Julius Kosgei, an 11-time All-American, said he loves being around his new teammate.

"He is a hardworking, motivating, and encouraging guy," Kosgei said. "I have had a marvelous time training with him. He is more of a brother than a teammate."

Kosgei seems to have said it best when referring to Kirwa's presence here at Harding.

"Harding has a guy that they will cherish having on the team," Kosgei said. "We are glad having him run for Harding."

Sprinters Unsung Victors

By BRANDON HIGGINS sports editor

At a school like Harding that is heralded for its success in distance races, overlooking the other participants who make up the track team might be easy to do.

Such is the case with Harding's sprinters.

Though relatively unnoticed, Harding's sprinters have posted solid finishes while the distance runners have garnered the bulk of the attention.

One such sprinter on the men's team is junior Kreg Kell. The Searcy, Ark., native has posted personal bests in the 200 meters with a time of 21.86 seconds and in the 400 meters with a time of 49.43 seconds.

Kell has earned first place twice, winning the 200 at the Harding Invitational and taking first in the 400 at the Rhodes Invitational.

Kell also posted personal bests for the 200 and 400 during the indoor season.

Freshman Blake Arnold has also had an impact this season, posting consistently high finishes in his first year as a college sprinter.

Arnold finished 19th out of 50 runners in the 100 meters at the Rhodes Open with a time of 11.25 seconds.

The Anchorage, Alaska, native also finished 8th out of 65 runners in the 200 meters at the Rhodes Open with a time of 21.71 seconds.

The women have also had

success with their sprinters.

Cathy Ebenja has been the Lady Bisons' go-to runner for the 100 meters. She posted a personal best time of 12.32 seconds at the Harding Invitational, and she finished third out of 24 runners at the Rhodes Invitational with a time of 12.78 seconds.

The freshman from Little Rock, Ark., also earned sixth place at the Rhodes Open by posting a time of 12.78 seconds.


The men and the women sprinters still have plenty of time left at Harding to record new personal bests and to win more races.

All the sprinters who participated in races this season for both teams return next year, ensuring that Harding will have a bright future in the sprinter category.



CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison

Junior Kreg Kell practices his form just after exploding off the blocks at an April 29 practice. Kell posted two first-place finishes during the outdoor track season.



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Global Outreach Offers Students Trips Overseas

By MARISSA SHEPARD
student reporter

Harding University presents numerous opportunities to students – from numerous degrees to major in, spring break campaigns, in-field experience, study abroad programs, internships and overseas mission trips. These are just the highlights of the opportunities available at Harding.

The Global Outreach department sends students overseas during the summer months for either mission trips or overseas internships. This year, 150 students have signed up through the Global Outreach office to travel overseas to more than 15 countries.

Global Outreach has two divisions for summer missions; the summer group mission trips and internships. Overseas mission trips are service-oriented projects lasting anywhere from four to six weeks; internships, however, shadow missionaries for educational purposes and

last for six to eight weeks or longer.

Global Outreach is not the only sector sending out missions this summer. Churches throughout Searcy, along with other departments on Harding's campus, send students to do mission work. Many students sign up with organizations such as Let's Start Talking and Eastern European Missions and travel through their programs.

Ken Graves, director for Harding's Global Outreach, said he hopes everyone gets a chance to go on a mission trip. He said there are four goals he hopes every mission team accomplishes, no matter where they go: have meaningful evangelism, encourage the saints at the church, be mentored by missionaries there and have significant spiritual growth in each person's own life on the trip.

Last year, 114 students and faculty traveled abroad through Global Outreach. Although the numbers are up this year compared to last year, numbers

across Christian universities are slowly decreasing with mission trips abroad. This does not mean that missions are decreasing; churches and other organizations are sending more groups overseas than ever before. They are giving students a variety of opportunities to travel overseas and have hands-on experience that has never been offered previously.

There are concerns with short-term mission work though.

"Short-term mission trips are good for the warm and fuzzy feeling and to spread the gospel, but there is no conviction for the long-term need to share of the Lord's coming," Graves said.

Harding does offer numerous chances to help with church planting, spreading the gospel, becoming a missionary and even medical missions. If you have an interest in any of these things, visit the Global Outreach office in the first floor in the McInteer Building, email missions@harding.edu or call 501-279-5133 for more information.

Harding Hosts London International Program

By ALLISON WEAVER
student reporter

Every semester, including summers, students from Harding University choose to study abroad and go to different parts of the world to experience education from a different perspective. HUF, HUA, HIZ and HUG may sound familiar to students and faculty on this campus, but what about HUL?

The newest study abroad program, Harding University in London, is different from the other programs by being offered only in the summers. Only one group of students will be able to experience this new program each year.

"This growth and development has been made possible by Dr. Burks' appointment of Jacqueline

"My point is that if you look at the heritage of the USA, more of it comes from England than anywhere else."

Jeff Hopper
dean of international programs

Dillion to be the director of our programs in the UK and France," Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs, said.

Harding operates several programs in the United Kingdom, many of them based in London. Those programs are usually designed for groups to come visit for a short amount of time, whether it is the business or art department.

This program was proposed by Dr. J. Warren Casey. The program will be geared toward music and theater majors. It is a shorter program than most other study abroad programs at only five weeks. Students are offered less than a full semester's worth of classes because of its length.

Students will receive eight hours of liberal arts credit. Integral to the program is an allowance that will be given to all students to attend plays, musicals and concerts. Although it is intended for theater and music majors, any student interested in music or theater and in need of liberal art hours may attend the program.

Dr. Cliff Ganus III will be teaching the featured Bible class, Hymnology. Ganus teaches this class on campus at Harding and will be teaching it in London as well.

"There's no full-time staff there employed by Harding other than Jacqueline Dillion, which gives you an idea of how hard she must be working," Hopper said.

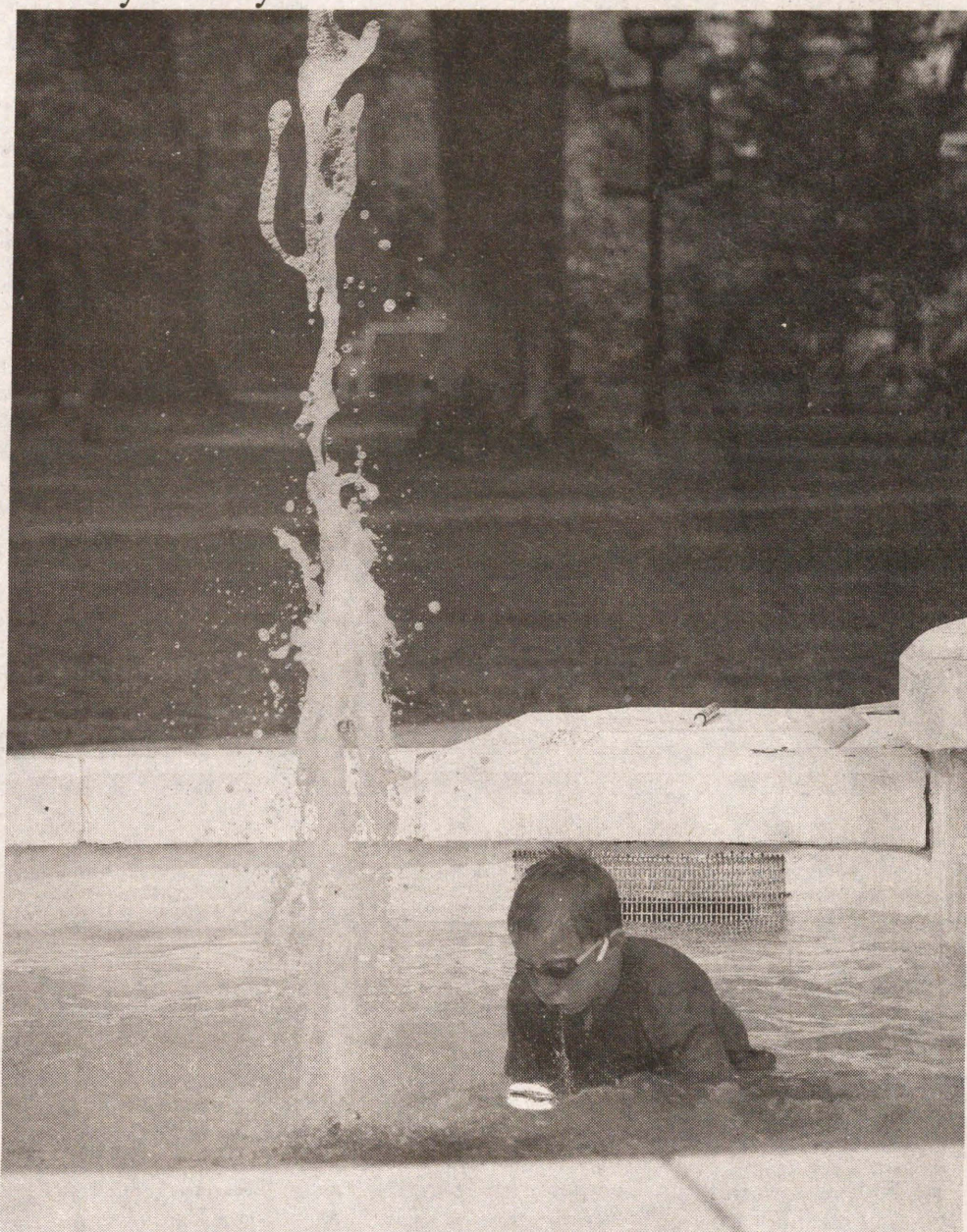
Many programs are based in London due to the city's qualities.

"London has so many programs because for the most part, the U.S. heritage is from England. We can see better there directly who we are as a people and a country," Hopper said. "Now in saying that I have to ignore most of the world's population and a significant part of the population of the United States. But my point is that if you look at the heritage of the USA, more of it comes from England than anywhere else."

The music and theater department will benefit from the opportunity to study in London because it is the strongest performance center in the Western world in both areas.

This program is different from Harding University Florence or Harding University Greece in that Harding doesn't own property there but rather will rent flats in central London. Having the opportunity to live in the center of London will give the students a true perspective of the lifestyle of British actors and musicians.

Lucky Penny



TAYLOR DURHAM | The Bison

A boy in the Friends Program dives for pennies in one of the Harding fountains. Numerous Harding students are involved in the program, which seeks to form friendships between college students and kids.

COBA Students Awarded Laptops At Ceremony

By JEREMY WATSON
copy editor

The College of Business Administration hosted their second-annual Spirit Awards luncheon April 11.

Seven students within the COBA who demonstrated entrepreneurial initiatives and a strong positive attitude received the Spirit Award, along with a Dell laptop computer.

Kaden Norton, Jonathon Horne, Lina Ramirez, Philip Groves, Natalie Oliver, Ryan Lambert and Ryan Davenport were each awarded the laptops, which had been donated by the 2006 COBA Outstanding Alumni of the year, Brian TreusDell, and his wife, Diane.

The TreusDells donated five laptops for the award last year as well.

Brian TreusDell, who is the

Winners in the Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda Competition

This event took place on April 21 and 22 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Members of COBA Phi Alpha Omega Chapter of PBL participated. Winners in their respective events will go to the National PBL Competition in Atlanta.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Erin Younger | Michael Crouch |
| Victoria Rech | Joel Love |
| Matt Mauney | Ben Whittington |
| Bradley Riley | Derek Glover |
| Seth Neller | |

CEO of TreusDell Salon and Spa in San Antonio, said at the awards luncheon that the award is given to students who don't necessarily have the top GPAs but who work hard with good attitudes.

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence," TreusDell said. "The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the

human race." TreusDell is also the CEO of Huebner Real Estate Company and has shown support for COBA for several years.

Dr. Bryan Burks, Dean of the College of Business Administration, said he "has been a valuable supporter of COBA for many years and has consistently shown interest in the success of COBA students."

Souvenirs Provides Niche For Poetry Lovers

By LAURA NAVARRO
student reporter

Not everyone loves poetry; that is why Souvenirs is not for everyone.

Souvenirs is an organization at Harding for students who are in love with poetry. Souvenirs became an official organization at Harding four years ago with a focus on the reading and memorization of classical poetry.

The organization began seven years ago when a group of friends decided they were jealous of the Shakespeare class having to memorize poems, according to Souvenirs president senior Nathan Shank.

Shank said more people got involved in Souvenirs and the group had to start meeting at

Thanks-a-Latte, a former Searcy coffee shop.

The club was founded by two students, Tim Nance and Andrea Zahler. As souvenirs started to grow, more officers were needed. The former officers of Souvenirs are Shank, president; Joanna Benskin, vice president; Jessica Roper, secretary, and Katherine Cozzens, public relations. Roper, a senior, said the club has three formal sponsors, the main one being Dr. Michael Claxton, a British literature professor.

Souvenirs' annual activities consist of a Halloween, Christmas and end-of-school-year party, the recording of a CD of poetry and public readings of epic poetry.

Souvenirs meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Honors House. According to Shank, 8 to 15 people participate in each meeting.

Shank said they usually have plenty of laughs and enjoy the poetry at meetings. "Sometimes we have poetry shutdowns, where two people memorize a poem and then recite lines back to each other in a duel," Shank said.

Senior Cozzens said Souvenirs is important because poetry is important.

"We are the only poetry club at Harding; therefore, we fill a special niche in the life of the campus," Cozzens said.

According to Shank, Souvenirs is important gives lovers of poetry a place to explore that love and share it with others.

"Souvenirs is definitely not a place for most people, but the ones who do come find a niche where they can flourish," Shank said.



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Take A Chill Pill



ALYSSA MORAN | The Bison

Students grill on the front lawn Wednesday during the annual Stress Reduction Fair hosted by Future Leaders of Health Care. The event included a moon bounce, kite-flying area, badminton, food and drinks, music, reading area and prizes.

It's A Sign Of The 'Game' Times

By TROY MARRS student reporter

The world as we know it changes everyday, and Harding changes right along with it. One of the changes Harding has made this past year is the allowing of online playing of video games. In past semesters, students were able to play on their dorm network, with someone down the hall or on another floor, but not outside of it. Now that Harding has opened its network because of a larger bandwidth, students can play with gamers all over the world.

"Being able only to play with people in my dorm was fun, but the ability to play with friends from back home and all over the world is much better," senior Jake Wood said.

There were a number of factors that let to this decision. Harding increased it's

bandwidth to a point where it would have been possible to run the games without affecting the universities core purpose, that of an academic institution.

"However, in order to stick with Harding's mission, we could not open up all games; some require known ports that are used for security breaches to be open," Keith Cronk, VP of Information Systems and Technology, said.

Opening ports for certain games allows for heightened security issues, so those ports need to remain closed, which means games that require these ports to be open could not be considered for online play on campus.

Harding conducted a survey to find the five top-played games on campus. This was to see if the games would be compatible with the right ports and still allow for the safety of Harding's network.

"Halo 3 is my game of choice; I was very happy to

see it on the list for online play outside of the Harding network," Wood said.

Students said they were pleased to see this change come to the Harding network. Now that most current gaming consoles have online capabilities, many students spend some of their free time play games online.

"It's a great way to interact with friends from back home: rather than just talking to them on the phone, you get to play a game with them," Jay Hungerford said.

Gamers on campus have experienced to joys of playing online all year and said they are satisfied with the changes Harding made, but they know that they are here for academic purposes and understand that their studies come first.

"Playing can get addicting. You have to watch the time you spend on it and not let it get in the way of your school work," Hungerford said.

Make The Invisible Seen

By MARISSA SHEPARD student reporter

Lower your voice!" How many times as a child did you hear that phrase? You're sitting in a quiet restaurant, adults are trying to have a conversation and all you want to do is tell everyone about your new toy you bought at the toy store. But, as strange as it seems, your parents were trying to silence your voice.

I have a voice. I have a voice that allows me to communicate with anyone I come in contact with. I have the freedom of speech, the freedom to express my opinions, the freedom to say "yes," as well as the freedom to say "no."

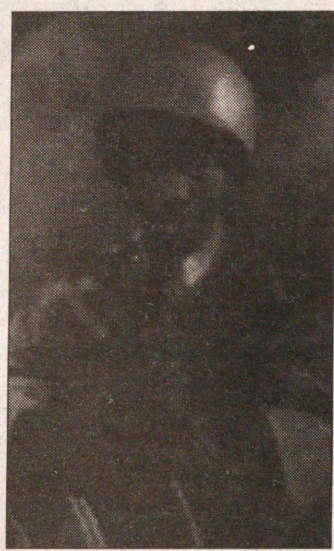
How many people in this country would love to have the freedom to voice their concerns, their trials and even their joyous times?

All across our world, children's voices are being stolen from them. Children no longer have the ability to say "yes," much less the ability to say "no."

In Northern Uganda, militants are stripping children of their childhood and forcing them to keep joining the ranks of murdering innocent people as part of an organization known as the "Lord's Resistance Army." These children are being brainwashed into thinking that walking around the streets of Northern Uganda carrying AK-47s is normalcy.

The LRA terrorizes, murders and kidnaps adults and children alike who sympathize with the government of Uganda. They take children and put them on street corners and use them to terrorize others.

In the past 20 years, 25,000 children have been taken into captivity by the LRA.



Every night children walk miles and miles from farming villages to the closest town to prevent being kidnapped. Although the number has dramatically decreased in the past six years, there are still hundreds of children making that walk every night.

There is something you can do to help make a difference in this ongoing war, and it is a very simple task. It is a simple two-step process that needs to be completed. Americans thrive on specific steps that need to be followed in order to achieve results. Well, here are those steps.

Step one: go online to www.invisiblechildren.com and do your own research about the war raging in Northern Uganda. Once you see for yourself that you can help make a difference for these children, make a donation or purchase clothing and other products offered by the Invisible Children organization to help support the work going on overseas.

Step two: host a viewing of Invisible Children's "The Rough Cut" movie to promote awareness. You can even put on a yard sale to raise money. Put your

creativity to the test to see what ways you can raise money for Invisible Children. They are a non-profit organization, so they stay in business by donations.

All proceeds and donations go directly to the Invisible Children organization, which will benefit the children in Northern Uganda. These funds will keep children off the streets and out of the hands of militants by giving towns money for education, homes and food, and money that goes in support of the community.

Invisible Children was established in 2003 by three filmmakers who set out to reveal the story of the suffering children. They left the United States in search of a story to tell people at home.

After discovering the hardships the children in Northern Uganda are suffering through, the three filmmakers returned home with a plan to enlighten others about these children's stories. And they have succeeded at doing so.

It's not about the wealth we have or the lack of fortune that others have. It's about using our gifts and giving to others and impacting their lives.

Someone in your lifetime has impacted your life in some way or fashion. Now is a chance for you to impact another person's life.

There is a war going on in Uganda. And granted, it might not be on the front page of every newspaper around the country or the opening story on the 5 o'clock news, but it still exists. And there is plenty we can do to help.

For more information or to purchase Invisible Children shirts, bracelets and movies, visit their Web site at www.invisiblechildren.com.

Brain Teasers: Puzzles & Games

Sudoku

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

Difficulty

Cryptique

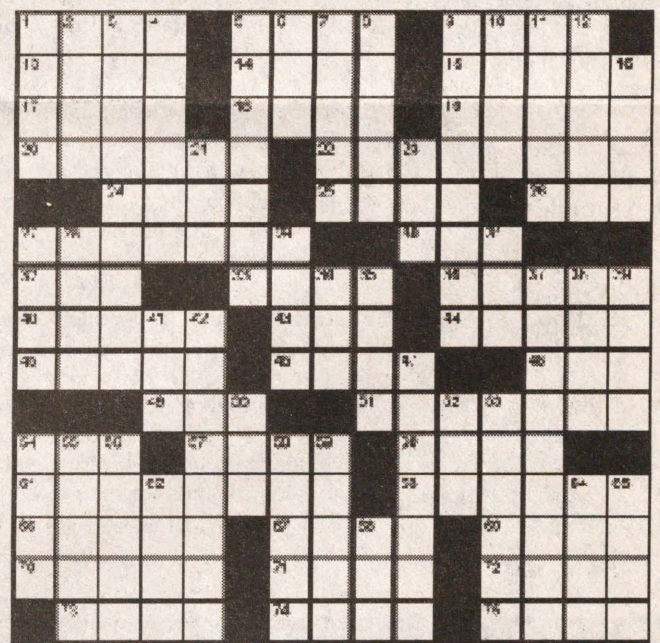
"ABC
DGXYCTC
BZXXWFCDD
JK MWKC
WD ABC
HJFQWHAWJF
ABZA LC ZYC
MJQCP."
D equals S

Difficulty

The Bison Crossword

Across

- 1 Harp (ill.)
- 2 Zealous
- 3 Kid's injury
- 13 Wizard of Oz lion, Lulu
- 14 Path
- 15 Gem stone
- 17 Blue-pencil
- 18 Halt
- 19 Small drum
- 20 Sandwich ingredient
- 22 Presidential roomer
- 24 Winged fruit tree
- 25 Jug
- 26 Nurses (abbr.)
- 27 Missle payload
- 30 G's letter
- 32 Fr affirmative
- 33 Not any
- 36 Lay in rest
- 40 Mountain nymph
- 43 Condiment
- 44 Capture
- 45 Riale
- 46 News item
- 48 Brim
- 49 Busca (Alta)
- 51 Curves
- 54 Daytime (Abbr.)
- 57 Ossian
- 60 Negatives
- 61 Affability
- 63 Mongoose holder for one
- 66 Spoken
- 67 Piker term
- 69 Sainthla
- 70 Twilled woollen fabric
- 71 Building part



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Down

- 1 Assist
- 2 Make over
- 3 Same elsewhere
- 4 Lenses
- 5 Luster
- 6 Fish
- 7 Lustrative city
- 8 Object
- 9 Wedding words, ring..
- 10 Dutch cheese
- 11 Toil
- 12 Sticker
- 14 Minerals
- 21 Chiffon
- 23 Soat
- 27 Flosses
- 28 Mystical
- 29 Locust bird
- 31 Lodge
- 34 Rill
- 36 Heroic verse
- 37 Lie
- 38 Engraved stone
- 39 Congressman, for short
- 41 King of Judah
- 42 Benzoin
- 47 Bicycle-built-for-two
- 50 Soot cap
- 52 Oil follower
- 53 Colonial parts
- 54 Goat and camel hair fabrics
- 55 racetracks
- 56 Saw legs, noisy
- 58 Handlira
- 59 Sp. title
- 62 mummie
- 64 Elevate
- invariant Elisha
- 65 Absorbed
- 66 Child

Answers can be found on page 5b

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Students Seek Thrills In Extreme Sports

By SAMANTHA HOLSCHBACH
news editor

Sophomore Julianne Petty gingerly walked toward the edge of the platform from which she would plunge, wondering to herself, "What was I thinking?" Looking at the New Zealand mountains far below, she held her breath and jumped — and the mountains and ground seemed to rush toward her at a frightening speed. Within minutes on a November day in 2007, the experience of bungee jumping for Petty was over, allowing her to check off one experience on her list of once-in-a-lifetime activities to do.

Petty is not alone among Harding students seeking to experience the intense thrills experienced through extreme sports. In addition to bungee jumping, several have hiked and biked hundreds of miles and skydived from dizzying heights.

"I was a little nervous as I edged closer to the ledge, but I took off into a dive when I heard that 'go' yelled," sophomore Michael Brooker said, who also bungee jumped while on the HUA trip last semester. "It's actually scary thinking about how easy it was for me to jump off a high point without thinking much about it."

Brooker's dive off New Zealand's Auckland Harbour Bridge ended unexpectedly in the water below.

"I had asked if I could hit the water, but the instructors said, 'that won't happen, mate,'" Brooker said. "I'm sure they were joking because I could hear their laughs from 40 meters above: 'Beautiful! Beau-

tiful,' all with that distinctive kiwi accent, of course. My entire torso ended up going underwater."

Brooker described the experience as an intense, quick freefall sensation; he had jumped between various steel beams and outcroppings off the underside of the bridge, which he said provided some perspective as he fell. Two Argentine men had paid to see and video tape someone bungee jump, and Brooker happened to be the only one jumping that day.

Both Brooker and Petty also sought thrills at Skydive Houston, where they skydived in March 2008 with four other Harding students: sophomores Steven Etchison, Lindsey Mondich, Rachel Dominski and junior Rebecca Morris. They had promised each other that if they weren't able to skydive at HUA, they would do so in America upon returning.

"Skydiving isn't scary at all," Petty said. "You're just kind of hovering up there."

Brooker said he also felt that skydiving wasn't too scary, as he actually found the experience to be relaxing.

"There is very little falling sensation with skydiving, but you get to relax," Brooker said. "I freefell for over a minute, which seemed forever. We would spin around or what not as we plunged faster and faster towards earth. There really wasn't that much to look at, but it was interesting seeing things slowly get bigger."

Once we were under the canopy, it was fun sweeping around and going into the wind. That was when it

really felt like I was flying. The last few moments before we hit the ground were great because we gingerly flew over trees and buildings to land perfectly on the ground."

Despite the relaxation and excitement embodied in skydiving, the risk of injury is still very real.

"You really do have to sign your life away," Brooker said. "You can't even sue the place if you die from choking on Coke from their machines."

Still, both Petty and Brooker said they recommended bungee jumping and skydiving to those interested.

For those preferring to find thrills without leaving the ground, hiking or biking long distances may provide a perfect fit. Senior Josh Jackson found long-distance biking appealing, as he biked 300 miles in three days last summer from Madison, Wis., to Springfield, Ill., averaging a speed of 16 mph.

"It was pretty crazy because I was all by myself," Jackson said. "Me, my bike and a little backpack."

Jackson had intended to bike past Springfield to Searcy, Ark., but was deterred by the extreme heat, which escalated from 90 degrees to over 100 degrees on his last biking day. Jackson said three people in the area died from simply being outside.

Anticipating another chance to test his limits, Jackson said he plans to bike 800 miles in eight days in the northern U.S. this summer. Quincy BioScience LLC., the company he works for, will sponsor his trip.

Following Jackson's ex-

ample, senior Gavin LaFave said he has decided to plan an ambitious biking adventure starting June 7, on which he'll bike from the US/Canadian border in Minn. and follow the Great Rivers Trail to the Gulf of Mexico. LaFave is currently solidifying his trip's details, which he said he expects to last a little less than a month.

Though long-distance biking will be new to LaFave, he has already tested his physical aptitude by hiking 730 miles of the Appalachian Trail in 35 days. The trail runs from northern Georgia to Maine.

"It was a crazy 35 days," LaFave said. "I definitely experienced every emotion in the book. Even within a day."

LaFave's endurance was especially tested while hiking on Roan Mountain, the highest point of his trek. A hail storm descended upon him that left the ground seemingly in a snow-like state, yet amid this challenge to LaFave came Johnny Storm, whom LaFave befriended and hiked with for the next two weeks. Amid this hail storm and other obstacles, LaFave found satisfaction.

"[I enjoy] pushing myself to the limit," LaFave said. "I just like being out without the restraints of anything to do."

Whether hiking across mountains, biking hundreds of miles or falling from frightening heights, these Harding students have found satisfaction in exceeding the limits of their comfort levels, plunging into a deeper sense of inner confidence in themselves and the whole human experience.

Brain Teasers: Answers from 4b

Cryptique

- Victor Hugo
WE ARE LOVED.
LIFE IS THE CONVICTION THAT
"THE SUPREME HAPPINESS OF

Sudoku

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

Answers To Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

COM	MADE	SCARS
LAVA	ALUM	ARIEL
ABEL	TOPSY	TURVY
MIRA	TEE	VISES
ENTREE	RENA	
HISS	NOT	DUMP
AREAS	ROUT	ENOS
RET	LEVEE	DRS
CLOD	EVAS	SCENT
HYPE	AUK	SEAR
FADE	NASCAR	
GAUGE	CHI	CORA
DOWN	AND	OUT
ERECT	AVEC	DEMI
GESTE	MESH	ERA

This Week In History

<p>April 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1788) Maryland added as the seventh state in the United States. <p>April 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1945) Dachau concentration camp liberated. 	<p>April 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1945) Adolph Hitler and his mistress Eva Braun committed suicide. (1975) The Vietnam War ended with South Vietnam's surrender. 	<p>May 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1931) The Empire State Building opened in New York City. At 102 stories, it would be the world's tallest building for the next 41 years. 	<p>May 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1994) Nelson Mandela won South Africa's first multiracial election. (1997) Tony Blair elected as Britain's youngest prime minister in 185 years.
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Harding Squirrels

By AMANDA PRUITT



Money For Pizza

By ALEX BLAIR



'Stop-Loss:' The Real Deal

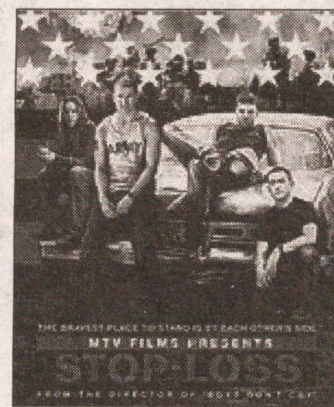
By TROY MARRS
student reporter

"Stop-Loss" is a movie that has caused mixed emotions in the military world. You have military personnel praising the film for its honesty and simple nature of trying to tell the story how it really is overseas and how life is when you return home. You also have the flip side of the coin with the film being rebuked for its false scene of war and showing the weaker side of the men in it.

Will there ever be a movie that really captures the true emotions of war?

The underlying theme of simple, lower class young men caught up in the horrors of war from which they can not escape, even when physically removed from the battle zone, is both relevant and unchanging.

Stop-Loss does an excellent job of portraying troops in an



It was hard for me to think that there is such a thing as stop loss in the military world today, but after some quick research I found that there was. The movie makes you think that this action is imposed on soldiers all of the time, where as in real life, the stop loss action is almost never used.

The movie has a rating of R for its graphic violence and pervasive language, the Lord's name taken in vain, much profanity, a crude reference to sexual intercourse and sex-related jokes. It's a Paramount Pictures production that is directed by Kimberly Peirce, and the cast includes Ryan Phillippe, Channing Tatum and Abbie Cornish.

Despite its flaws, "Stop-Loss" has moments of power and is well-performed — not enough to qualify it as a film worth seeing, but an indication that more successful movies about the Iraq war are within reach.

Iraqi battle and choreographing how that battle inside a city limits might happen. It also shows some of the short, medium and long term affects of such battles on the human psyche.

Stop-Loss, in the United States military, is the involuntary extension of a service member's active duty service under the enlistment contract in order to retain them beyond their initial end of term of service date.

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MAKING HARDING HISTORY

HOWARD WRIGHT

By KIM KOKERNOT
student reporter

Heated words with a piercing message flew past the flagpole, from white students to black, and black to white, on April 4, 1968. Howard Wright stood in the small group of black students as they argued that the flag should be lowered to half-mast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had just been assassinated.

"That day was about as surreal to me as the assassination of President Kennedy five years before that. The feeling was horrible and gut-wrenching, almost like disbelief," Wright said.

The passion of the civil rights movement had found its way to Harding's campus as the black students emerged from their quiet and forgotten shadows to argue for the honor of King.

"We were at the flagpole about a degree and a half away from boiling point," Wright said. "[Harding] President Clifton Ganus told the entire student body that the flag would fly at half-mast because 'a great American had died.' It was an admission that this man's life meant something to more than just us."

As a minority student, Wright said he often found himself forgotten and overlooked by others.

"Life on campus was almost nonexistent to me. It was like I wasn't there," Wright said. "It seemed comical to me that the only mention of my existence on the campus was my senior

class picture."

But now he is now able to reflect on the impact he has made on others.

"Neither Harding nor the city of Searcy was engaged in a civil rights movement," Wright said. "Therefore, it was even more difficult to persevere. Many Christians who are decades younger than me viewed me as having paved the way for them. I didn't see it in 1968, but I sure do see it in 2008."

Wright documented how he was treated as a black student in March 2007 through a series of newsletters printed at the congregation where he works as the senior minister in Atlanta.

"When I was a student here, I was not a victim of overt racism. But I was a victim of benign racism. I was a victim of benign neglect. There were days on this campus when I felt like Ralph Ellison's, 'Invisible Man.' They see me but they really don't see me."

But when Wright and fellow student Elijah Anthony graduated a month after King's assassination, they became the first African-American graduates of Harding College.

"We didn't even know that we were making history. We didn't come here to make history. But it was history, none the less," Wright said during a chapel presentation he made in February 2007.

He also recounted the atmosphere of campus life during his college career in the speech.

"On this campus in the '60s, it wasn't really a civil rights movement. There were no walk-outs, no marches and no protests. There was no police presence and no vicious dogs," Wright said. "It was more of a quiet storm than a movement. No one knew the storm was coming, and no one noticed when the quiet storm had passed by."

Wright said that during the time of the civil rights movement, minority students were seen as less credible and intelligent.

"In the late '60s and early '70s the educational process often characterized black and hispanic students by labeling them in ways that made it impossible for them to flourish and succeed in the educational process," Wright said. "Advocacy for those students and parents was necessary then, and to a great extent, is still necessary today."

During his return to campus, Wright was disappointed at the lack of racial diversity in the student population.

"I observed while visiting the campus that the percentage of minority students is virtually the same today as it was 40 years ago," Wright said. "Yes, there is a need for change. Harding recruiters need to be more proactive in seeking out minority students."

In order to do so, Wright said he feels more attention should be paid to recruiting students from certain colleges and from black churches. Another of his ideas has found support from administration

"We didn't even know that we were making history. We didn't come here to make history. But it was history, none the less."

Howard Wright

and will be utilized next fall.

"I have been encouraged by the administration's decision to send recruiters to our National College Conference in Atlanta in November 2008. African-American students from all over the country will be there representing about 50 colleges and universities," Wright said. "It is a golden opportunity for recruitment of superior students."

After graduation, Wright worked as an English and Social Studies teacher, licensed clinical social worker and a minister.

"As a minister and social worker, I was often placed in a position by God to be the spokesperson of these disenfranchised families," Wright said. "Academically, I was well prepared for my career as an educator. But I was not prepared for nor could I have been prepared for the work that God had for me to do as a community organizer and as a voice for people who had no voice. No college course could have prepared me for what God was preparing me to do."

