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BISON

A HARDING UNIVERSITY STUDENT PUBLICATION

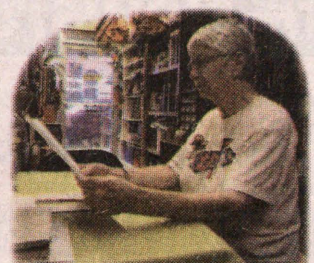
the

VOL. 85. NO.8

December 4, 2009

THEBISON.HARDING.EDU

PEOPLE
Ann Nieto offers
citizens of Searcy the
gift of literacy.
Page 6B



University nixes support for conference

Peace by Piece event planned by student activists must move off campus

by **ABBY KELLETT**
student writer

Peace by Piece, a student-driven theological conference, was officially denied Harding sponsorship Wednesday, Dec. 2, after the university took issue with the listed speakers and lecture topics. The student planning committee is now considering local churches and schools as alternative

Searcy venues. The Peace by Piece conference is intended to create opportunity for theological dialogue on how Christians can engage with society in creative and collective ways. Author of "How (Not) to Speak of God" Peter Rollins and co-author of "Jesus for President" Chris Haw, among others, will deliver keynote addresses, and classes will cover top-

ics ranging from holistic ministry to composting.

The student conference directors, Dave Pritchett and Zac Seagle, had been in talks with deans regarding Harding's involvement, but the university withdrew its involvement with an official statement citing concerns with theological topics and speakers that might "contradict the core values and mission of the school." Other

reservations included speakers who were "unknown to administrators" and descriptions of the program which were "vague and open to widely different meanings."

Barring a change in the university's position, the conference cannot be held on the university premises.

"The conference is not allowed to be on campus because 'the ideas of the Peace by Piece conference

do not coincide with the values of Harding," vendor coordinator and public relations committee head junior Kayla Maynard said. "We are still trying to talk with the deans, but it looks like we're going to have to move the conference."

Though the new location of the conference has not yet been decided, the student planning committee will see PEACE on page 3a

Church shift at ACU

by **SAM HOLSCHBACH**
managing editor

For the first time in 103 years, Abilene Christian University in Texas is prepping to support a student body with a Church of Christ minority. The university, identified with the Church of Christ, has seen its freshmen affiliation with the Church of Christ drop to 43 percent in the past two years.

The trend, however, does not overtly concern ACU's president, Royce Money, who said in an ACU news story, "I see it as a great opportunity to broaden our influence and our scope if it means more people are being attracted to ACU because of its high academic standards and the blend of Christian orientation."

Money also said that despite the numbers, ACU will remain committed to its Church of Christ roots.

Does ACU's shifting religious climate signal a change on the horizon for Harding's student body? Harding President Dr. David Burks said no, citing that the university primarily recruits students from Churches of Christ.

"It's our intent to continue our strong recruitment efforts from Churches of Christ," Burks said. "We do recognize that the number of 18-year-olds in Churches of Christ is declining slightly. This just points to our need to aggressively pursue these students."

About 78 percent of Harding's current undergraduates identify with Churches of Christ according to Marty Spears, assistant vice

All is calm and LED bright

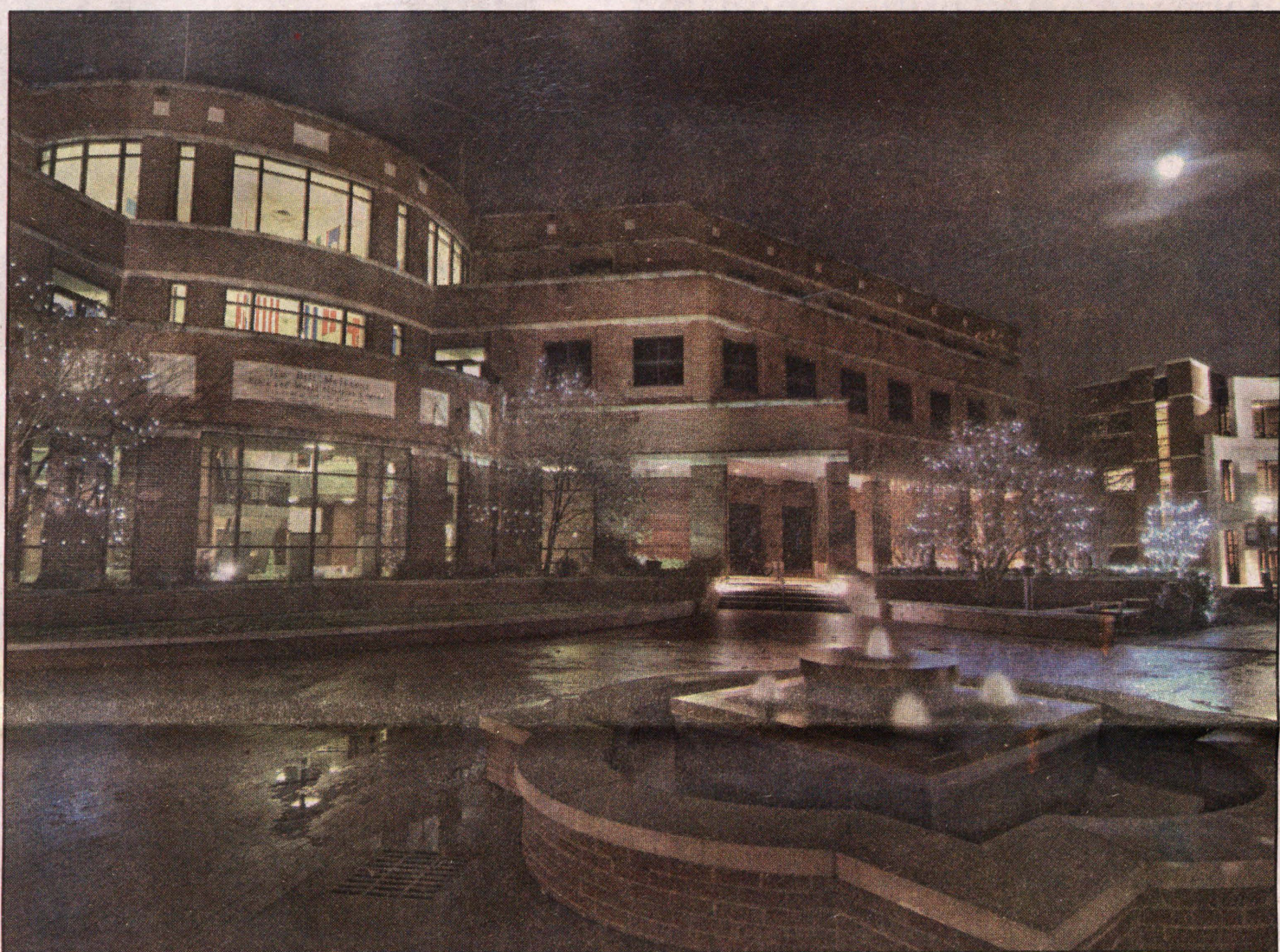


photo by NOAH DARNELL | The Bison

The blue LED lights that have come to symbolize the Christmas season at Harding hang from the trees around the McInteer Building. The lights have been delighting students, professors and passersby for four consecutive years now.

president for academic affairs. Roughly 75 percent of this year's freshmen class pledged this same allegiance.

Burks said research suggests that if students connect with a local church, they're more likely to remain affiliated with that church upon graduation. Dr. Flavil Yeakley, professor of Bible and religion, said

he believed that is a reason why Harding has retained its Church of Christ identity—by stressing that students become actively involved in local churches.

Yeakley has conducted ample research concerning Church of Christ trends. He recently completed a study in which he analyzed

see ACU on page 3a

Better late than never for vaccines

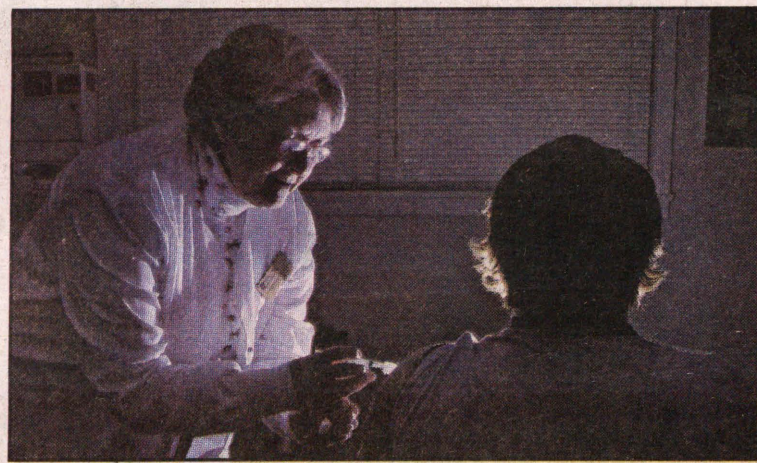


photo by NICK MICHAEL | The Bison

Lynn McCarty administers a dose of the H1N1 vaccine to Chris Dellapace, who consented to the publication of his identity.

by **BLAKE MATHEWS**
editor-in-chief

shortage of doses yet.

Lynn McCarty of Student Health Services got an early Christmas present on Nov. 24 when she opened a package and found 500 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine.

The vaccine for the highly-publicized virus has been hard to come by at the local, state and national levels. McCarty had ordered 1,000 doses, but she said she was still "quite surprised" to find any of the vaccine with her name on it.

"I was not sure what was in the package, since we order other medical supplies on a fairly regular basis," she said.

The vaccines are ready for students who wish to be immunized against H1N1, but there is a \$15 per person charge, since the vaccines were paid for by the Student Health Service's budget. McCarty could not say how many students had received the vaccination, which is given through injection, but she said there was no

McCarty said she had no way of knowing whether or not the other 500 doses of H1N1 vaccine she ordered would ever arrive. Before the flu season started she had ordered vaccines for the regular flu as well, though she said her supplier had backed out and that order would not be coming.

The H1N1 virus, more commonly known as "swine flu," has been part of the public consciousness since last spring. The media storm surrounding it has largely passed over, and McCarty pointed to data from the Center for Disease Control that shows a "downward turn" in its spread. However, she said the number of flu cases being seen is still noticeably above average for this time of year.

Students wanting to get the vaccination must go to Student Health Services at 605 E. Center St., across from the Sears Honors House. McCarty and the rest of her staff can be reached at 501-279-4346.

SA puts front lawn on ice

by **CARLY KESTER**
student writer

Tickets for Harding University's first ice-skating event, scheduled from Dec. 3 to 4, went on sale Tuesday and Wednesday. The tickets were sold for \$5 and paid for 30 minutes on the ice rink set up on the front lawn.

The idea was brought up at a Student Association meeting about two months ago and was approved

by the alumni office and student life committee a few days before Thanksgiving break.

"The idea was tossed around at the meeting, and we thought it'd be cool," SA president Bryan Clifton said. "We didn't think it would actually be possible, though."

Clifton also expressed that whether the rink appears in later years depends on the students' interest in it this year, and some are looking forward to something

different.

"I'm really excited about the skating rink," senior Laura Young said. "I think it sounds pretty legit."

Other students are not counting on the event to take off with flying colors.

"It looks like it will be too small for people to skate on, so to me it's kind of pointless," junior Taylor Stisher said.

The motive behind the

see ICE on page 3a



photo by NICK MICHAEL | The Bison

Bryan Clifton, Liz Howell, and Veto Blake lay the foundations for Harding's first ice skating rink.

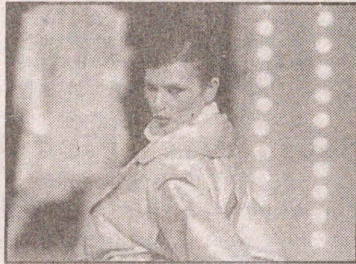
TheNewsreel

TheWindow

Former Miss Argentina dies during cosmetic surgery

The risks of plastic surgery are being put under the spotlight after the death of Solange Magnano, former Miss Argentina, possibly due to complications with an elective surgery to improve her buttocks.

Magnano died in the hospital after being transferred from the clinic that performed the surgery. While surgical error is not suspected, buttock-enhancement surgery comes with typical complications.



Nigel Mercer, president of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons Mercer, told CNN that it's possible that instead of a relatively low-risk procedure of having a solid implant in her buttocks, Magnano may have undergone a liquid silicone injection, which is an extremely painful procedure banned in most countries, or a fat injection using liposuction to transfer fat from different parts of her body into her buttocks.

Washington announces decision after police shooting

Washington's governor, Christine Gregoire, has announced that the state will no longer accept criminals on parole from Arkansas following the shooting of four policemen allegedly by Maurice Clemmons, an Arkansas parolee with a lengthy criminal record.

"I am so troubled that today I've asked to discontinue, under interstate compact, accepting any individuals from Arkansas until we can have a further review of not only the interstate compact system and whether it's really living up to its responsibilities, but the question of whether Arkansas is living up to its responsibilities, and I have a major questions in my head about that," Gregoire said.

In 2000, Gov. Mike Huckabee commuted Clemmons' sentence because he was only 16 at the time of those crimes. This in turn made Clemmons initially eligible for parole. Huckabee issued a statement Tuesday he "takes full responsibility" for that decision.

Clemmons was shot dead after his shooting spree, and six of his friends and relatives are currently facing charges for helping him evade authorities.

Mass effort attempts to stop African wildlife crimes

A six-country collaboration of police, national wildlife, customs and national intelligence agencies from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda has seized more than two tons of ivory and arrested more than 100 people involved in a renewed effort to control wildlife crime in eastern Africa.

The organization, coordinated by Interpol, goes under the code name of Operation Costa, and in a news release, the international police organization called it the "biggest ever transnational wildlife crime operation in Africa."



Operation Costa is named after Constantius "Costa" Aloysius Mlay, a former director of the wildlife division of the Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

"The illegal ivory trade is not just about smugglers and poachers; there are far-reaching consequences to this and all wildlife crime," Peter Younger, manager of Interpol's OASIS (Operational Assistance, Services and Infrastructure Support) Africa wildlife crime program, said.

White House Christmas theme unveiled

The White House revealed its Christmas décor Wednesday, Dec. 2. The theme for 2009 is "Reflect, Rejoice and Renew."

The renewal aspect of the theme extends even to the making of the ornaments. Sixty local community groups from across the nation received 800 ornaments prior administrations had left over, with instructions to decorate them in a way that celebrates a favorite local landmark.

The groups completed the ornaments and sent them back to the White House. Landmarks represented include the Statue of Liberty and the DuSable Museum of African American History.

The official White House Christmas tree continued this green commitment. It is decorated with LED lights, which conserve energy. The National Parks service will replant six other trees located at various White House entrances after the holiday season.

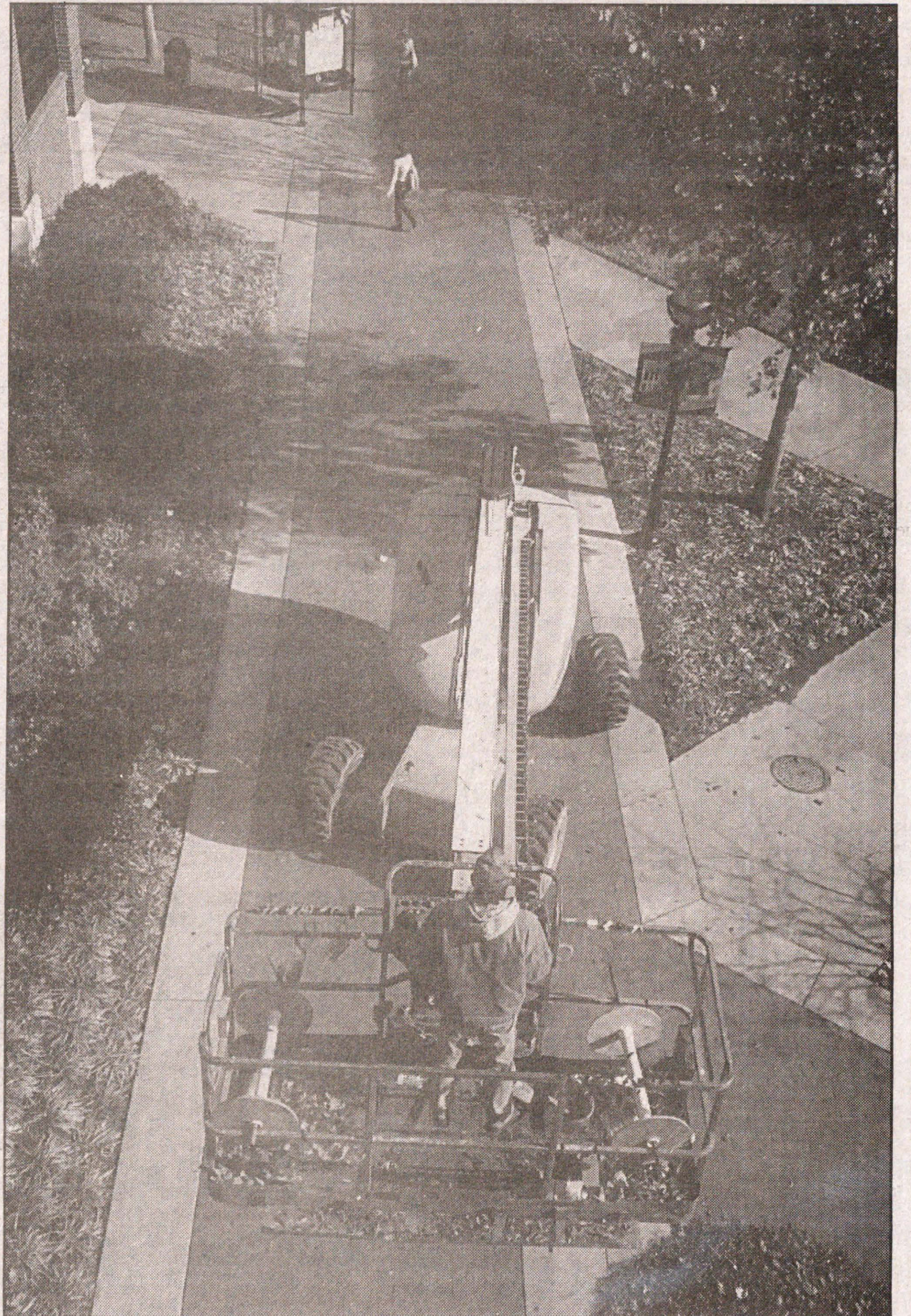


Photo by NOAH DARNELL | The Bison

J.R. Scoggins maneuvers his lift truck into position to hang the holiday lights as students go about their daily routine before Thursday night's Community Open House.

TheInsideVoice

Tips for your next White Elephant party

by KYLIE AKINS assistant news editor

The season of haphazard shopping, frilly trees and White Elephant parties is upon us, leaving many wondering what makes a good gag gift. It is sheer ingenuity and originality that produces the gift that will be stolen (in Christian love) over and over again.

No one wants to be that person who brings the

homemade popsicle stick cabin. No one. So here are some tips to save yourself from humiliation at your next work/club/Hanukkah party.

- Use live animals.
- If a 5-year-old child would have fun with it, a college student would, too.
- Everyone secretly wants a "High School Musical" or "Twilight" poster.
- Bubble wrap = college

student stress reliever.

- If your "High School Musical" poster got stolen, a threat in the parking lot after the party will usually recover it.
- Wrap up some textbooks the HUB wouldn't buy back.
- If you run out of ideas, grab something off your roommate's desk before you leave and wrap it in a Wendy's bag in your car.

TheWatercooler

"And just like with a baby, it happens with a lot of stumbling."

— ROM HOUBEN, the 46-year-old Belgian man, on how he feels reborn after a doctor found a way for him to communicate after 23 years of being wrongly diagnosed as being in a vegetative state

"She was perfectly happy to serve."

— SANDRA TURNER, Birmingham court administrator on an Alabama woman who had her name changed to Jesus Christ and was recently released from jury duty after disruptive behavior

"I support the President's decision, and I think it deserves the support of all Americans, both Republicans and Democrats."

— JOHN MCCAIN, Republican Senator of Arizona, on President Obama's Afghanistan plan

#MyBison



Each issue, this section will feature the Bison editorial staff's favorite Tweets from users on campus. To submit yours, just add #MyBison to your Twitter updates.

Glass ball Christmas tree ornaments are irresistible to 1-year-old boys who love to throw balls. We're down three so far. — j_miller

Former Congressman Ed Bethune: ASI Speech or Chapel Devotion. You Decide. —jaedwards

Wrote a lot today and listened to Pandora as it poured cold rain outside- all the while wishing it would turn to snow. Oh Arkansas. —livinggypsy

Lawsuit over social spying

by **BLAKE MATHEWS**
editor-in-chief

In a new twist on the old lesson of not talking to strangers, federal government agencies have started using social networking sites like Facebook and Flickr to gather information on citizens. Trading in a warrant for a friend request is legal and has led to several legitimate arrests, but the exact details of what these agencies are doing have been shrouded in secrecy.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation filed a lawsuit Tuesday against these agencies, which include the CIA and the Department of Homeland Security, for refusing to disclose their methods and guidelines for gathering information through social networks.

The nonprofit Internet watchdog EFF had submitted Freedom of Information Act requests to these agencies asking for detailed records of their activities back in early October, according to the lawsuit. None of the agencies complied with the requests, and now the EFF is demanding the release of the records in court.

The complaint mentions several cases in which social networking sites have provided agencies with direct access to important information. The Federal Bureau of Investigation used Twitter to catch anarchist Elliot Madison, who was "tweeting" police movements to protestors outside the G-20 summit in September. The Secret Service caught up with a fugitive suspected of fraud after he opened up a Facebook account and unwittingly befriended an agent.

But the surveillance of citizens by their own government should always be carefully regulated, said Shane Witnov, a law student working with the EFF, in an interview with CNET News. This is especially true when it involves looking for information in areas most citizens consider safe and personal.

"Social networking sites are becoming a part of the way we communicate every day and everyone thinks they are sharing information [on the sites] with just their friends," Witnov said. "Governments are using the sites but not in the way citizens expect when they sign up."

In its complaint the EFF states that it needs the government records to "help inform

Congress and the public about the effects of such uses and purposes on citizens' privacy rights and associated legal protections." But Keith Cronk, vice president of Information Systems & Technology at Harding, said any content that makes it onto a social networking site is not private property anymore.

Cronk said the government's actions in social networks were likely legal, even if they made users uncomfortable. Even something like creating a fake Facebook account to gain access to someone's profile is comparable to an officer going undercover to expose a drug ring, he said.

Federal agents may or may not be looking for incriminating evidence in the Facebook profiles of Harding students, but Cronk said his department definitely was not.

"From an IT point of view, we don't even touch it," he said. "No one has time to worry about that, or the desire to."

However, government agencies have been looking for evidence on private computers since before Facebook or MySpace, sometimes employing more invasive strategies. The FBI frequently used its own computer virus, called CIPAV, to infect the machines of suspected criminals over the past ten years. A targeted suspect would first download CIPAV through an e-mail or a dummy Web site. Then the virus would mine the computer for relevant data, like installed software and recent Internet history, and send it back to the FBI.

If an outside entity, government or otherwise, tried to access a computer on Harding's network through a "back door," Cronk said there would be a "very high" probability of his department catching it. Network traffic monitors in the IS&T office show "spikes" in network activity, which Cronk said usually indicates a problem.

Facebook, the world's most popular social networking site, recently gave its more than 350 million users additional control over who can access their information. By eliminating its regional network system, which opened up user profiles across networks as big as China or India, site founder Mark Zuckerberg said he hopes to give "more than 100 million people ... even more control of their information."

PEACE: student conference forced off campus by Harding University officials

continued from page 1a

arranging food, housing and advertising. Other organized activities include an art gallery; a sacramental meal; and a performance by Void Collective, a multimedia art group who use live music, art, spoken word and personal reflections to engage questions of faith and doubt. Acoustic singer-songwriter and Harding alumnus Michael Wright will perform Saturday night, Feb. 6.

The conference is hosted by the Khora Project, a nonprofit organization created to encourage and facilitate the formation of communities to work in settings with poor resources, and is being planned and organized by a planning committee of 10 Harding students. The committee hopes that the conference will be "a space for creative dialogue about how to form and nourish communities who live with an end toward shalom," Khora Project founder Dave Pritchett said.

Many Harding students have already expressed interest in the conference. The Peace by Piece Facebook group has more than 200 confirmed attendees, with more than 300 still considering registering for the event. Students are receiving invitations through both e-mails and Facebook to join in the efforts to promote the event despite the venue change.

"I think many students, myself included, are searching for a way to live out their worldview, talents and dreams with a Christian perspective," advertising leader junior Ashley Reeves said. "I think this conference will provide new ideas about what that might look like."

Many of the students involved in planning the event said they feel passionate about the cause it supports and will forge ahead without Harding's sponsorship.

"I believe that the desire to change the world can best be fulfilled by chang-

ing your corner of it," Pritchett said. "I hope that this conference will engage and equip people to do so."

The Khora Project is built on the belief that justice, peace and virtue do not stem from either broad legislation or haphazard living, but from the daily work of people living together with intention and patience. Maynard agrees.

"Social justice is a tangible task that is often dismissed and an issue that I personally dismissed for a long time," Maynard said. "But it's a real way to show people the way the gospel can be lived."

The conference is being held Feb. 5 through 7 with 10 different speakers, various classes and other activities meant to challenge and inspire Christians. Harding students can register for \$15, or \$40 for the four-person group rate. For more information about the Peace by Piece conference, visit the Web site at www.pbpcconference.org, or contact Dave Pritchett at dmpritchett@harding.edu.

ACU: Church of Christ students dwindling at university; denominational loyalty lower with millennial generation

continued from page 1a

the freshmen enrollment composition at 18 Christian colleges and universities. At these 18 institutions, 70 percent of students were members of Churches of Christ in 1999. That figure never fell below 60 percent until the last three years: to about 58 percent in 2007, 55 percent in 2008 and 53 percent in 2009. His estimates were based on a cluster sample of 100 congregations that provided data on approximately 5,000 members who graduated within the time of the study.

"I'm concerned about this trend," Yeakley said.

Yeakley's concern is augmented with the historical

movement of formerly religious schools towards secularism, as evident in Ivy League universities originally instituted to train preachers.

"There's been a trend throughout history for religious-affiliated schools to lose their religion," Yeakley said. "They pretty quickly lose their soul."

A number of reasons have been postulated for why this generation of Christian students, in general, is not vigorously declaring their loyalty to the Church of Christ. Some believe the church's strict adherence to a capella music is partly at fault. Others believe the spirit of this generation tends toward not expressing a specific sect of Christianity—being 'just

a Christian' is enough.

"Denominational loyalty is not what it was years ago," Yeakley said. "Loyalty to the tradition of parents [their religion] is not as strong."

Junior Aerial Whiting has seen this phenomenon most clearly on students' Facebook profiles.

"On their Facebook information a lot of students put 'Christian,'" Whiting said. "I'm one of those myself."

While Whiting tells people in conversation that she's simply a Christian, her core beliefs stem from Church of Christ doctrine.

"I don't list myself as a hyphenated Christian," Whiting said. "But I still hold myself to certain values. I have very

conservative Church of Christ values."

Despite the student trend away from listing loyalties, Yeakley remains confident that Harding will boast high numbers of Church of Christ members in the present and long term. His freshmen study revealed that about 80 percent of young adults attending a Church of Christ go to college, compared with the national average of 67 percent. At the same time, Harding will continue to nurture and respect students who profess faiths other than a Church of Christ Christianity.

"We certainly don't want to disparage students who are not from Churches of Christ," Burks said.

ICE: SA brings fun, cheer

continued from page 1a

skating rink was to provide something different for students during the holidays.

"We wanted to give freshmen another reason to stay at Harding and older students something fun to do over Christmas," freshman Trey Carlock said.

A company from Boston called Artificial Ice Events came to set up the rink, and the \$5 from students will pay for skates and set up.

"This is pretty much the only time students will ever be able to skate on the front lawn," Clifton said. "It just

"This is pretty much the only time students will ever be able to skate on the front lawn. It just adds to the Christmas experience at Harding."

Bryan Clifton
SA President

adds to the Christmas experience at Harding."

Christmas Story Contest

Do you love to write? Do you love Christmas?

Submit an original Christmas story and a picture of yourself to Sarah Kyle at skyle@harding.edu by Dec. 9.

(The winners will appear in next week's issue of the Bison, along with a picture of the author.)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Want to make money while gaining valuable experience for your résumé?

GOOD NEWS – WE'RE HIRING!

Student positions are available for the Spring 2010 semester with the Bison.

Stop by the yearbook office in the student center to pick up an application.

E-mail any questions to jdbeauchamp@harding.edu or lfaust@harding.edu

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ERIN GRANT

Guest Space

The True Holiday Spirit

The season is here. Lights, ornaments and Christmas trees appear all over campus. Finals arrive and pass, and then we return home to family, an abundance of food and Christmas festivities. We rush from store to store frantically buying last-minute gifts, then feverishly work preparing meals and cleaning the house for guests. (At least, this is how it usually works at my home.)

And all throughout, we try to remember to pay tribute to the real "reason for the season" through casual and occasional lip-service over cake, punch and colorfully wrapped gifts. And in the back of our minds, we tell ourselves that Christmas is about something more, but our acknowledgement seldom travels beyond the boundaries of thought.

This is the frequently-experienced scenario. More and more, Christmas, instead of a remembrance of Christ's birth and sacrifice, becomes an end in itself. This begs the question: how does Christmas affect us, really? How should it affect us?

Ultimately, Christmas is a time of remembrance. The most apparent occasion to consider is Christ's birth, which is itself a breathtaking event. An old pastor of mine stated the situation quite aptly: Imagine living a life in a warm, comfortable household, possessing everything good you could ever need or desire. Then, one day, your father comes to you and says that you need to leave the home; not just for a day, but for years, in order to gather others who are less fortunate into your dwelling. But you cannot take any of your belongings, and the outside world presents a cruel and harsh life compared to your home.

Yet you step outside. It is bitter, pitiless and treacherous. Fear threatens, but still you complete your father's task so that others might experience the joys you have known your entire life.

This is the scenario of Christ. His birth was not simply coming to earth, but surrendering the ultimate perfection in heaven to step into a world steeped in an evil from which, at the Cross, even God himself turned away. It was a situation in which even Christ faced fear; this fact reveals much concerning Christ's relationship with mankind.

C.S. Lewis remarked, "You needn't worry about not feeling brave; our Lord didn't—see the scene in Gethsemane. How thankful I am that when God became man he did not choose to become a man of iron nerves; that would not have helped weaklings like you and me nearly so much."

Christ does not exist as a distant deity who reaches down to pat our heads and console us when we face troubles. He is a Christ who lived among us, suffered with us and now walks with us, bearing our yokes with us so that we might not have to carry our troubles alone. He understands our sufferings because he went through them before us.

But why did Christ die for us, really? A man named George McDonald once stated, "The Son of God suffered unto the death, not that men might not suffer, but that their sufferings might be like his."

Christ's birth and death were not merely about heaven for us, but about changing history and the way we view life. God didn't say that because he died, we would live our lives in pleasure. He didn't die so that we wouldn't have to pursue a Christian life, but so that we could pursue a Christian life in him; he didn't die so that the poor would no longer exist, but so that the poor could be given hope in him.

In the end, he didn't die so that we wouldn't have to carry our crosses, but that he might help us carry them. We are called to become like him, and that means to live out his ministry on earth.

ERIN GRANT is a guest contributor for The Bison. She may be contacted at egrant@harding.edu.

Life Lessons in the Parks

By CHRIS BINGHAM



The Fish Wrap

AMANDA PRUITT

Guest Space

Harding:
1. Men's Tennis is 24/7
 Part of the challenge of working in sports information at Harding is the hustle of keeping up with everything. There's that hectic time in February when there could be four basketball and baseball games to attend, all while writing up a track-and-field story or two.

At Tennessee, there's a bigger staff and more concentrated jobs. I've since learned it is possible to write 51 stories on men's tennis in less than four months. Amazing thing is, the season doesn't really get going until January.

Focusing on a sport makes it difficult to learn basic information about major athletic events. I can't tell you the leading scorer in basketball, but I can easily recall that J.P. Smith has 85 career singles wins and ranks 12th on Tennessee's all-time list.

2. The Reporters are Here
 Football is a year-long circus in Knoxville. People say they bleed orange, and I'll believe it without biological proof. These folks

demand to know every facet of the program, right down to kicker Devin Mathis' sit-com preferences.

Harding has fallen victim to lack of sports coverage by media outlets in the last few years, even by the hometown paper. During some home football games in 2008, the press area was completely vacant save for sports information.

Such is not the case at Tennessee. There are more than 10 reporters at every practice, not to mention the dozens more of traveling scribes who arrive for game day.

3. On TV? Again?
 During my first game day, I was in the press box watching a little TV before kickoff and remarked how our season opener was a lead story on ESPN.

"Welcome to Division I," one of my coworkers told me. "I hope you won't be this excited every time we're mentioned."

Point taken.

4. Singing the Hymn
 Singing the words to Tennessee's fight song, "Rocky Top," is practically part of the job description. At the first athletic staff meeting in August, everyone stood up and belted out the verses and chorus to the 1967 Osborne Brothers classic.

This brings up an important

discovery: They sure don't teach four-part harmony at Tennessee.

5. Honor Thy Logo(s)
 Image matters, and not just in matters of Tennessee's logo. There's an equally important brand on campus: the sporting apparel juggernaut, Adidas, which furnishes the official gear for the entire athletic department.

It never ceases to amaze me how many Adidas clothes exist in this land where the Nike swish is practically forbidden. Who knew the company made khakis? Or sunglasses? Or headbands that tied in the back, a la Roger Federer?

Working big-time athletics means learning something new all the time, such as how to recognize all 80+ players on the football team without the aid of jersey numbers or even walking across campus to the tennis center without getting lost on the way.

However, my greatest task in sports information remains this: explaining how "Bisons" was grammatically correct in 1925. It's impossible to leave the black-and-gold entirely behind.

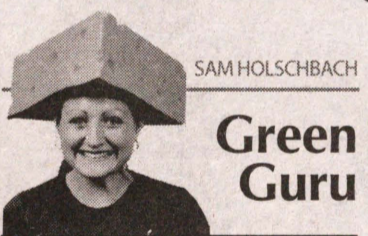
AMANDA PRUITT is a guest contributor for The Bison. She may be contacted at apruitt@harding.edu.

No Such Thing As Clean Coal

Last year I was privileged to ride an airboat across Grassy Lake, a private portion of the 18,000-acre wildlife sanctuary known as Little River Bottoms in southwest Arkansas. An emerald wonderland covered in duckweed and cypress stands, the lake boasts at least 11,000 herons, egrets, ibises and bitterns.

That number is no exaggeration—I marveled, mouth agape, at scores of white Cattle Egrets in trees, forming the illusion of snow-covered boughs. Everywhere I turned, a heron stared back, its attention fixed upon spearing a frog or avoiding the hungry gaze of one of the lake's numerous alligators. It's no wonder, then, that this place is deemed part of an Important Bird Area and was under consideration as a Natural National Landmark for its quality wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, Grassy Lake is also under consideration for being irrevocably tarnished—if an adjacent coal-fired power plant is approved for operation, spewing toxins into the lake and air over the region, even jeopardizing the air of Searcy.

To date, construction of Southwestern Electric Power Company's (SWEPCO) John W. Turk Jr. Plant in Hempstead Co., Ark. continues despite an Arkansas Court of Appeals ruling earlier this year to withdraw the granted Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, a vital document for construction. Regarding its decision, the court said the Public Service Commission did not abide by a law requiring utilities to show public need and harmony with the environment. Nevertheless, at SWEPCO's bidding, the Arkansas



SAM HOLSCHBACH

Green Guru

Supreme Court is currently examining the appellate court's decision.

But is the Supreme Court's examination really necessary, considering the appeals court unanimously opposed the Turk plant's construction in light of its questionable need and environmental ramifications? If anything, having the Supreme Court examine the ruling permits SWEPCO more construction time and, in turn, more justification for its existence. More importantly, is the plant's \$1.6+ billion existence even beneficial for Arkansas? Consider that most Arkansas would not reap the electricity generated by the plant, as the vast majority of SWEPCO's customers reside in Texas, Louisiana and other surrounding states. It's curious that the residents of these states and others have recently banned from their borders more than 99 proposed coal-fired power plants, deemed detrimental to local residents' health and economies. Still, Arkansans will get something should the Turk plant reach fruition: pollution and rate hikes. The plant would spew at least 5 million tons of toxins like carbon dioxide and sulfur into the atmosphere, which is why the American Lung Association vehemently opposes its construction. In particular, an estimated 366 pounds of mercury and other toxins would sully rivers, lakes and streams, thereby damaging Arkansas' prized fishing

revenue. 'Clean coal' is thus a sorry misnomer. Even now, according to Thinc Marketing Group, more than 110,000 Arkansas families are facing the likes of an 18-20 percent increase on monthly utility bills due to this plant's construction phase. Clearly, the Turk plant cripples Arkansas when other states are converting to cleaner energy like natural gas or wind.

On the other side of the spectrum, the plant's proponents claim it will boost the local economy by adding jobs. SWEPCO itself states on its Web site that the plant would provide 110 permanent jobs and a \$9 million payroll. In reality, though, how many of those jobs will be filled by locals? Many of the positions will likely require a restrictive list of skills that rural Hempstead County residents just can't fill. While a number of trained out-of-state technicians may move to Arkansas, thus boosting the state economy somewhat, it's possible they may simply opt for long commutes to preserve their current livelihood in lieu of the plant's removed location. Even if the Turk plant boosted surrounding Arkansas communities, a better alternative to create jobs exists in green energy. The Center for American Progress estimated that nearly 20,000 such jobs could be created in Arkansas based on June 2008 unemployment figures. Thus, investments in solar, biofuels, building retrofitting and more could not only create jobs en masse but also create an industry with minimal environmental impact.

Additionally, SWEPCO declared that the plant is necessary to meet increased energy needs in coming years. But is the

construction of an entirely new plant the only way to increase electricity production? If Arkansas' three other coal-fired power plants honed their efficiency or SWEPCO's own natural gas-fired plants were expanded (a cleaner alternative to coal), then perhaps the Turk plant's costly construction could be negated. Believing the latter, former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice David Newburn formed the dissenting opinion in the ruling (2-1) to grant the Turk plant a building permit. Of that decision, Newburn said, "The momentum of 'business as usual' will make the necessary changes difficult for both the public and the power industry, but we must turn the inevitable corner and begin now to refuse to countenance the further degradation of our atmosphere without taking every reasonable step to nurture and promote cleaner, more efficient alternatives. To allow an increase in atmospheric pollution in this instance is shortsighted."

As the Natural State, Arkansas should be embracing eco-friendly industries, paving a path towards a sustainable future that other states can emulate. Instead, Arkansas looms on the periphery, stifled by the status quo, deaf to the alarm call of climate change.

It doesn't have to be this way. Arkansas still has time to cleanse its soil of poisonous coal—but it must hurry, lest natural treasures like Grassy Lake become merely a part of our past natural heritage.

SAMANTHA HOLSCHBACH serves as the managing editor for the 2009-2010 Bison. She may be contacted at sholschb@harding.edu.

TOTAL BLACK FRIDAY SPENDING: \$10.66 BILLION



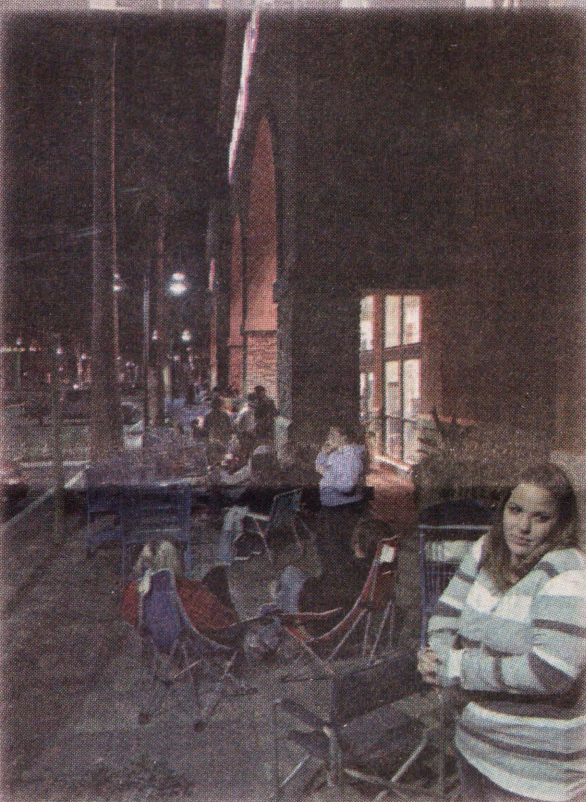
Best Buy at 5 a.m. already has shoppers lined up around the side of the store.

photos by BLAKE MATHEWS and JEREMY BEAUCHAMP
photo illustration by NOAH DARNELL

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving and the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season. Retailers slash prices on popular gift items in the hopes that shoppers will go above and beyond the call of commercialism to get the best deals. As some of The Bison's editorial staff discovered, the shoppers do not disappoint.



Shoppers try out potential gifts at Fry's Electronics.



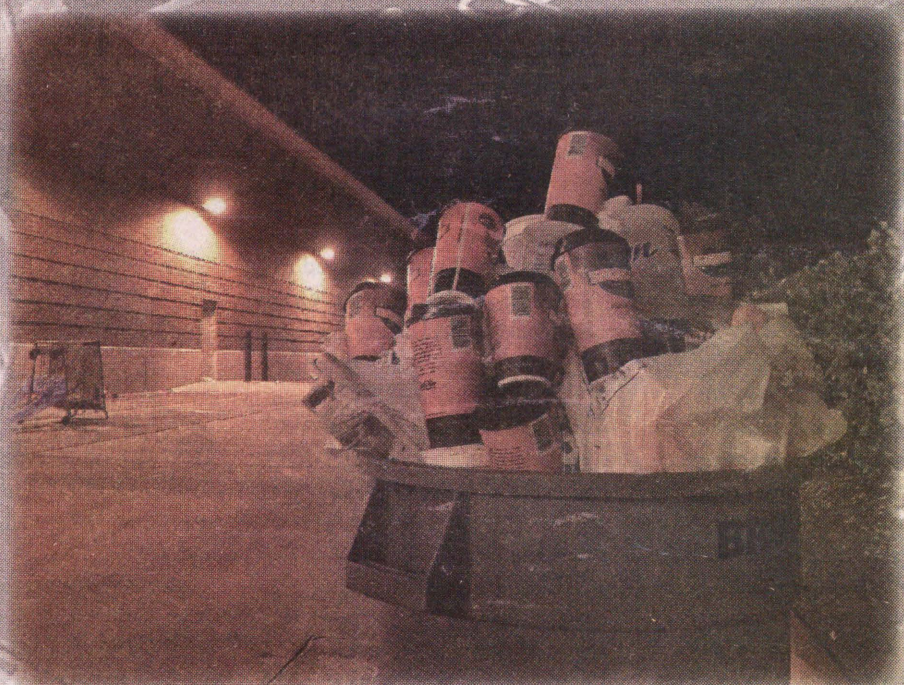
Toys "R" Us shoppers anxiously wait for the doors to open.



Wal-Mart's electronics section is where most of the action is at.

MOST SUCCESSFUL RETAILERS: BEST BUY, WAL-MART AND AMAZON

MOST SURPRISINGLY POPULAR ITEM: ZHU ZHU PETS



Trash cans overflowing with spent coffee cups testify to the dedication of the Black Friday shoppers who spent the night outside Best Buy.

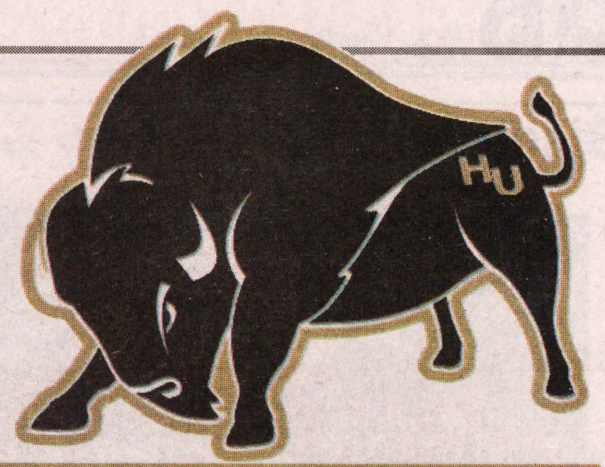


BLACK FRIDAY

SECTION B

BISON

the



December 4, 2009



Senior guard Matt Garner looks to save a ball from going out of bounds, left, and tries to advance the ball during a home game against Arkansas Tech last season. Garner was recently named GSC West player of the week.

Photos by CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison

Blake setting bar high at guard position

by STEPHANIE GREGORY
student writer

One of the pleasant surprises from last year was the arrival of guard Stephen Blake. Although Blake is just 5-foot-9-inches, he has been receiving plenty of playing time thus far in the season.

Blake transferred in from North Arkansas College because he knew that due to his height he was not able to be recruited to larger schools.

"My height was probably the only reason I didn't get offers from the schools I was interested in right out of high school," Blake said.

He also said that by going to junior college it would prove that he has the ability to play at a college level.

"I knew that going to a junior college kept the door open for the places I was interested in," Blake said.

While Blake played for the North Arkansas College he led the team to an average of 16.2 points per game, shot 51 percent from the field, 42 percent from three-point range, and 88 percent from the free throw line. His most impressive game he played was against St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, where he scored a career high of 45 points from the field and hit eight threes. Since coming to Harding, Blake has averaged 8.2 points per game and four assists per contest.

With an increased role this season comes increased responsibility, and Blake is one of the upperclassmen the Bisons will look at to lead them into a tough GSC schedule. Blake said that he believes the team will be able to have a good run in the conference this season, and he said the team has the ability to compete in the conference championship.

"We have all the pieces for success, so it will be up to us how successful we are," Blake said.

Blake expressed big expectations for the team this season. He said the team as a whole is starting to mesh very well together, and he feels the team will get closer as the season goes on.

"I expect us to go deep into the conference tournament and make it to the national tournament this year," Blake said.

Since coming to Harding Blake feels that he is learning a lot from Bison basketball head coach Jeff Morgan.

"Morgan is very experienced and helps me a lot," he said. "For the most part he lets me play through my mistakes, but I take his advice and try to apply it."

Coach Morgan has designed some plays that will get him open shots, but he tries to get the ball to the different play makers on the team.

Blake has not played in the Rhodes Field House for long, but he has had a big impact on the 2009-2010 Bison basketball program this year. One of the biggest transitions for Blake has been playing in front of the rowdy crowds in the Rhodes Field House. Blake said playing in the Rhodes has been "awesome." He did not know what to expect the first time he played and said he had fun playing in the field house, but more than that had fun watching the crowd.

"I didn't know if I should expect that good of a crowd every game or not," Blake said. "Now I have high expectations for our crowd every game."

Blake and the Bisons will take their high expectations for home games as well as the season into their next home game Saturday Dec. 12, against Central Baptist College. Before that the Bisons will take a trip to Texas for two games.

Bison basketball capable of another surprising season

by CHRIS O'DELL
sports editor

The Harding men's basketball team capped off another successful season under head coach Jeff Morgan last year. Although the team was picked to finish fifth in the conference last season in the Gulf South Conference preseason poll, the Bisons earned the team's first-ever national ranking after winning a school-record nine straight games.

The men's team ended the season last year with an 18-12 record after reaching the GSC semifinals. The Bisons had many doubters after losing forward Matt Hall to graduation the previous year, but they proved many critics wrong.

This season the Bisons have a chance to once again fly under the radar and surprise teams around the conference. The team was chosen third in the latest preseason coaches' poll and had two players selected to the Preseason All-GSC Team.

Senior guard Trent Morgan and junior forward Kevin Brown will be two veteran leaders the Bisons will lean on if the team is able to beat the likes of Delta State and Arkansas Tech in the GSC West. Tough teams in the East will also await the Bisons, with familiar faces such as Valdosta State and North Alabama chosen as the two top teams in the GSC East.

Despite what could be a lack of respect from other teams around the

conference, Harding is off to a quick start in the 2009-2010 season. The team has posted a 4-1 record through its first five games.

The Bisons also have a surprising upset over Division I opponent UALR to add to the team's resume. Harding upset last season's Sun Belt Conference Champions 80-77 in early November during an exhibition game at the Jack Stephens Center in Little Rock, Ark. The Bisons had not beaten the UALR Trojans in a regular season or exhibition game since Feb. 1, 1973.

Senior guard Matt Garner, who is off to a hot start this season, said the team doesn't mind being overlooked around the conference.

"I do feel like we are flying under the radar, and I think that is a position that we like," Garner said. "We would rather be a team that sneaks up on people rather than the big dog with the big target on our backs all the time."

The Bisons still have seven games remaining before conference play begins in early January. The team is showing it is capable of surprising many people again this season and possibly even winning the conference.

"The GSC is such a hard conference," Garner said. "You have to win the tough games against the really good teams at the top, but you have to be mentally tough not to have any slip-ups against some of the weaker teams because any

given night any team in the GSC could beat any other."

The Bisons begin conference play at home against Henderson State University Jan. 9. The game against the Reddies is the first of 12 games in a row against GSC West opponents. The stretch could be key for the Bisons' season and their chances of competing for the conference championship. Garner said the team must show consistency throughout the season if it has a chance at a conference title.

"We are really working on becoming a team that doesn't take plays off and always comes out and plays great defense and rebounds," Garner said. "Some nights you're going to shoot better than others, but we can always work hard, play defense and rebound."

The Bisons will play games against the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio and Saint Edward's University in Austin Friday and Sunday before heading back to Searcy. The Bisons have seven games remaining on the schedule before the conference showdown with Henderson State next month.

Garner said the team, which has an eight-player-deep rotation, must be ready to play each and every game.

"Those eight need to show up and really give it their all every night," Garner said. "If they don't, coach [Morgan] may need to mix it up because we have a lot of talented guys sitting on the bench, very eager for an opportunity."

Titans' Young more than con-Vince-ing in comeback

CHRIS O'DELL

The Leadoff



It wasn't long ago that the Tennessee Titans endured one of the most embarrassing losses in NFL history. After losing to the New England Patriots by a score of 59-0 in mid-October, the Titans franchise was in complete disarray. The 2009 season looked all but over for the blue-and-white.

Then following the loss that put Tennessee at a lowly 0-6, Titans head coach Jeff Fisher made headlines at a recent charity event in Indianapolis — and not for good reasons. Fisher took off his jacket to reveal a Peyton Manning Colts jersey (the Titans division rival), then uttered the now infamous words, "I just wanted to feel like a winner."

The franchise was at an all-time low and looked to have nothing left to salvage in the 2009 season. However, that all changed when Titans owner Bud Adams uttered the soon-to-be infamous words, "I want

to see Vince Young play."

The former Texas Longhorns star quarterback broke into the NFL with instant success back in 2006. Young took over a 0-4 Titans team that had been led by veteran quarterback Kerry Collins. Then, as a rookie, Young finished the season with an 8-4 record, won the Rookie of the Year Award and even found himself flying to Hawaii to play in his very first Pro Bowl. Young seemed destined for greatness in the NFL.

However, after a 10-6 season his sophomore year in the league, Young began to take criticism from the fans and media. His career was spinning out of control before the hammer fell at the beginning of the 2008 season.

During last year's season opener against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Young threw two costly interceptions and was greeted with boos from the Tennessee home crowd. Then after an injury during the fourth quarter, Kerry Collins took over the quarterback position and won the game for the Titans.

After the game, rumors began to fly that Young was asked to reenter the game against the Jaguars but refused to go

back in because of the boos he received. News bulletins soon began to irresponsibly report Young had gone missing, was mentally unstable and might be contemplating suicide.

Despite refuting any possible suicide attempts, Young lost his starting job to a more experienced Collins. The "game manager" Collins led the Titans to a 13-3 regular season record before getting bounced in the first round of the playoffs by the Baltimore Ravens.

Starting the 2009 season, Titans fans and head coach Jeff Fisher seemed sure Collins was a better option at quarterback than Young. Many experts believed Young would be off the Titans' roster before the 2010 season began. However, Young had other plans for his career.

With a 0-6 record with Collins under center, the Titans' owner stepped in and made it known he wanted Young to get another chance. The team announced the quarterback change following its bye week and Young ironically started his first game in nearly a year and a half against the Jacksonville Jaguars (the team he last started against in 2008).

Young has now started five

games under center this season and has won all five contests. The former Longhorns great is 9-0 in his last nine starts in the NFL and has the Titans thinking playoffs after a 0-6 start.

During Sunday's game against the Arizona Cardinals, Young orchestrated an 18-play, 99-yard touchdown drive that started with just over two minutes remaining in the game and the Titans trailing by four points. Young capped the Elway-esque drive off with a 10-yard touchdown pass on fourth and goal as time expired. The pass gave Young a career-high 387 yards passing on the day and kept the Titans' playoff hopes alive for at least one more week.

During the five-game stretch, Young is averaging more than 200 yards passing per game while completing 63 percent of his passes. The Houston, Texas, native has accumulated a 4-to-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio and has also rushed for more than 150 yards and one touchdown on the ground.

No. 10 is playing with an incredible amount of confidence and has his teammates thinking anything is possible. With each

win and each impressive performance under center, Young is proving all his critics wrong. As long as Young keeps playing the way he is, who's to say the Titans can't beat anybody in the league right now?

In fact, if Young can lead the Titans to a victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday, the Titans would most likely finish the season 10-6 and with a 10-game win streak at hand.

If that happens, we might soon see a repeat performance of Young's 2005 Rose Bowl dominance, in which he single-handedly led the Longhorns to a National Championship over the USC Trojans. Besides, it was Young himself who stated earlier this year that he would be the next black quarterback to win the Super Bowl and would someday be in the Hall of Fame. It might have seemed crazy at the time, but then again, Young's entire NFL career has been unpredictable and crazy.

CHRIS O'DELL

serves as the sports editor for the 2009-2010 Bison. He may be contacted at codell@harding.edu

Bison Notes

Bison basketball suffers first loss

information courtesy of HU Sports Information

Men's team loses at Rhodes Fieldhouse

Harding suffered its coldest shooting night of the season Monday and fell 52-46 to West Alabama at the Rhodes Field House. It was the final game of the Bisons' four-game homestand. Harding heads to Texas for its next two games, beginning Friday at Incarnate Word.

Harding (4-1) was looking

to win its first five games of the season for the first time since 2002, but shot only 34 percent from the field. Senior Kevin Brown led Harding with 12 points, seven rebounds, four steals and three blocks.

The Tigers led 25-13 on a Jason Swanson layup with 7:26 left in the first half, but did not score another field goal before halftime. The Bisons were only able to cut the lead to six and trailed 27-21 at halftime.

West Alabama extended the lead to 14 points at 35-21 on an Alquan Mendenhall three-pointer with 17:13 left in the game, but again the Tigers went cold, going for more than eight minutes before their next field goal. But again, Harding had trouble closing the gap and still trailed 39-31 when Richard Sirju ended cold spell with a three-pointer.

Harding never got closer than

four points the rest of the way.

Harding connected on only 16-of-47 shots on the night and shot 5-of-19 from three-point range.

Lady Bisons dominate West Alabama

Sophomore forward Lindsey Root tied a career high 19 points to lead the Harding women's basketball team past West Alabama 84-51 Monday night. The win keeps the Lady Bisons perfect at home as they take a 3-4 record on the road this weekend.

The Lady Bisons connected on a season high 12 three-pointers and shot 48 percent from the field. Harding forced 29 West Alabama turnovers and had 19 steals for the second straight game.

Harding jumped out to take an 8-2 early lead but West

Alabama quickly battled back and took a five point lead of their own. The Lady Bisons went on a 13-1 run in the middle of the first half and didn't look back taking a 40-27 lead into the locker room.

The Lady Bisons came out of the break and continued to build on their lead. Harding extended their lead by 30 late in the half on a 9-0 run. With 36 second left, sophomore guard Sierra Rollins hit a three-pointer to put the Lady Bisons up by 33 points.

Junior transfer Meaghan Kellybrew hit 3-of-3 from behind the three-point line and finished with career high 11 points. Sophomore forward Kallie Bartee had a career high six assists in the game.

The Lady Bison bench contributed 51 points in the game.

The Lady Bisons hit the road, traveling to San Antonio, Texas

Friday to face Incarnate Word at 5:30 p.m.

Cross-country season another success

Harding, under the direction of head coach Steve Guymon, completed another outstanding season. The Bisons won the GSC Championship, the NCAA II South Region Championship and placed ninth at the NCAA Nationals. Sophomore Daniel Kirwa was the individual champion in the GSC and the South Region and joined Jacob Rotich (2003) and Julius Kosgei (2006) as the highest-placing finishers at the national meet with a second-place finish. He and fellow sophomore Philip Biwott both earned All-America honors.

Lady Bisons look to improve on last season's success

by KATE KUWITZKY student writer

The Lady Bison basketball team looks to improve this season on last year's solid performance, in which the team appeared in its third consecutive Gulf South Conference tournament.

The team returns five starters including Pre-season All-GSC selection Stacey Owens, who led the Lady Bisons in scoring last season, averaging 16.1 points per game. The team will look to their returners to pick up the slack after losing two All-GSC players to graduation including four-time All-GSC guard Catherine McMenemy.

"Anytime you lose a leader like Catherine it is difficult to replace everything she brought to our program, but we feel like we are deeper than we've ever been," Coach Tim Kirby said.

All returners are experienced, which will help ease the transition. Kaitlin Skinner will return for her 4th year at the point guard position and will be looked to for leadership off as well as on the court.

"She gives us a lot of intangibles that don't show up as stats and is a great leader. She is the most coachable player I've ever been around," Kirby said.

The Lady Bisons will also rely on what Kirby calls "the best shooter in the conference," Lindsey Root, as well as guards Sierra Rollins and Kallie Bartee, who missed most of last season with a broken foot, to lead the team this year. Harding also comes into this year with eight new players, all of whom Kirby feels can contribute.

"All of them have a chance to play a major role," Kirby said. "We feel like we filled all of the needs we had plus some."

Although the Lady Bisons play in one of the toughest conferences in the country, they have a legitimate chance to once again compete for the conference championship.

"We are more athletic and a lot deeper than any team we've had since taking over the program," Kirby said. "We just ask our players to compete in everything they do, and wherever that puts us we will be satisfied. We hope that the team we put on the floor will be exciting to watch and they will carry themselves in a good way."

After getting off to a shaky start, the Lady Bisons are riding a 3-game winning streak as they continue in non-conference play. Gulf South Conference action begins Jan. 9 against Henderson State.

The Lady Bisons' next home game is Dec. 12 versus Ecclesia College.



Athlete of the Week

Lindsey Root

- Hit 5-of-8 shots behind the three-point line
- Tied a career high with 19 points and helped the Lady Bisons defeat West Alabama 84-51

CRAIG RAINBOLT | The Bison

Importance of learning from losing in sports

ROBBY CARRIGER

Guest Sports Column



This was supposed to be the best football season ever for me. I was born in Oklahoma, and in an effort to spare you 12 years' worth of details from my life, I now call Chicago home. This sequence of events led to my football fandom. I have been crazy about the University of Oklahoma since I was little and now bleed crimson-and-cream.

My time in Chicago created a Chicago Bears fandom that, despite years of disappointment and 2,342,342 quarterbacks in the last decade, just will not go away.

So you can imagine my excitement this winter and spring when Sam Bradford and Jermaine Gresham decided to stick around college one more year and go after a national championship and a few co-eds rather than the first-round millions they were guaranteed in the NFL. Then there are da Bears. Despite all the drama, much like most Bears fans, I was excited about the Jay

Cutler trade. It seemed as though all the pieces were falling into place. Rare is the day when you can say that this year is the year for both your college and pro teams, but here I was in August, giggling like a 14-year-old outside the "New Moon" premiere.

Fast forward to December. A few knee injuries, a torn-up shoulder and a broken wrist later, I am now 10 pounds heavier, thanks to some depressed eating, and I think I saw a gray hair in the mirror this morning. Bradford and Gresham played fewer than two games of football combined in 2009, the Bears lost Urlacher and another starting linebacker for the season in the first half, and yes, I have seen every redzone interception Jay Cutler has thrown. What happened to the perfect year of football?!

However, there's something liberating about your favorite teams laying stinkers. 2009 has been perhaps the most enjoyable season of football I have had in years. Despite the anxiety of watching every OU and Bears game, my football tastes have branched out, to say the least.

The nausea caused by my own teams has been replaced with interest and intrigue in

teams I never really cared about before. All of the story lines of the 2009 football season have been that much more interesting, and I have a much greater respect for the great parity and talent across the country. Here are a few things I may not have enjoyed much if the Bears and Sooners were mauling every opponent like they were supposed to.

The emergence of TCU and Cincinnati as legitimate title contenders

When you are rooting for your favorite team to hold onto a BCS spot, you really hate busters like these small schools. But when the bowl your team is headed to is named after an online car insurer, you enjoy the little guy. The prospect of seeing these surprise teams square off against national powers this January has me giddy.

Brian Kelly has done an amazing job taking Cincinnati from a basketball school to a football power in the Big East. Meanwhile, people know more about TCU now than when Ladanian Tomlinson went there, and they are strangely called the Horned Frogs. Texas Christian has amassed a perfect record this season while absolutely annihilating opponents with ease. Tell me

you wouldn't enjoy watching that offense go blow for blow with Florida or seeing if Brian Kelly is on the same coaching level as Nick Saban. (Note: Boise State could fit into this category but was left off intentionally. You should understand why. Stupid hook and ladder.)

The Tennessee Titans

Before I was a Bears fan, the Houston Oilers were my team. But when they packed up and headed to Nashville, I took my fandom elsewhere. However, find me someone who is not a little excited about the re-emergence of Vince Young as a starting quarterback. His playmaking ability alone should be enough to keep you glued to the TV, but combine that with budding superstar Chris Johnson racking up 150 yards a game (not to mention carrying my fantasy team), and you have a football game that is watchable even for the casual fan. After starting

0-6, this team is making a playoff push and has some of the most exciting games in the league. Plus you get about five to six shots of Jeff Fisher's moustache per game.

Toby Gerhart

Ever go to a pee-wee football game and there is this one kid who is bigger, stronger and faster than everyone? You watch him, and the whole time you are on the edge of the bleachers, partly because you're amazed at his ability and partly because you are genuinely concerned he is going to run over people like Spike from "Little Giants".

That is what it is like watching Stanford's running back Toby Gerhart. The bulldozer of a man plays both football and baseball for the Cardinal and has a chance to bring the most hardware to Stanford since the chess club there got team retainers. He probably won't

win the Heisman, but you should see him in New York along with Tim Tebow and Colt McCoy. He will be in the running for several other awards and should win "the most exciting to watch" award along with "the guy you would least want to tackle" award.

Fantasy Football

I have always played fantasy football. I just wanted to use part of this column to laugh at the fact I beat Joe Mahaffey by 64 points this week.

So there you have it. It has been a rough season for me as a fan, but I have learned that there is more to watching football than winning. But let's be serious, I would rather my teams be good. There's always next year.

ROBBY CARRIGER is a guest sports columnist for the 2009-2010 Bison. He may be contacted at rcarrige@harding.edu

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Student parking spots increased

by **AERIAL WHITING**
assistant copy editor

Public Safety converted 18 faculty parking spots on the north side of the Thornton Education Center into student parking during Thanksgiving break.

The change came about as a result of feedback from students who said those faculty spots usually remained vacant, according to Public Safety Director Craig Russell. After studying the parking lot for a time, Russell, as well as Mel Sansom, vice president of finance, and Wayne Westerholm, manager of parking and transportation services, concluded more student parking could be added.

Public Safety conducted its study to determine whether there would be a negative impact on the faculty and staff if they lost parking by the Thornton.

"What we try to do with parking is we're always trying to balance the needs of all of the different groups on campus that have a demand for parking," Russell said. "In this case it's balancing the needs between the faculty and staff ... and of the students. ... We felt like that was a change that we could make that would help the students, and it really wouldn't create much in the way of problems for faculty/staff, either."

Students discovered the extra parking almost immediately.

Although the change created more spaces for students, it did not come about because there was insufficient space on campus for student vehicles beforehand.

"Right now we enjoy the blessing of having enough parking spaces for every registered car on campus," Russell said.

Harding University in Zambia students come home



Students from the Harding University in Zambia (HIZ) program line up to share testimonies from their time in Africa. The female students all wore skirts that displayed the style of the women they helped and worked with in their experience. The students also performed a song learned on the HIZ campus.

by **NICK MICHAEL** | The Bison

HU on Tap: Tap Project comes to Harding

by **JESSICA ARDREY**
student writer

If you were in the Hammon Student Center on Tuesday and Wednesday the week before Thanksgiving, you might have seen something you never expected to see on Harding's campus: two giant kegs with students lined up to get a drink.

No, Harding has not gone morally bankrupt. The kegs were filled with root beer and were part of a project called HU on Tap.

This program is a prototype created by students in the Selected Marketing Topics class in the business department. It started as a case study competition through the American Marketing Association. The students' goal was to come up with a marketing plan for UNICEF's Tap Project.

The Tap Project began in 2007 in New York City. It started with a few local res-

taurants asking their customers to donate a dollar or more for the tap water they usually drank for free. The idea spread quickly and soon became a national ordeal.

The purpose of the Tap Project is to provide clean, safe drinking water to countries that have none, including parts of Iraq in 2008. According to its Web site UNICEF is "working with its partners to reduce the number of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by 50 percent by 2015" and trying to raise \$2 million by 2010.

The marketing students ran with the idea and developed a fundraising strategy to test on campus. Within a few days, HU on Tap was in full swing. To promote the event, students put up signs above sinks in restrooms all over campus, posted signs everywhere and made a chapel announcement, complete with a video presentation by Bethany Brown.

Part of the plan to raise money involved

the sale of tie-dyed T-shirts, which the AMA funded and the students made by hand. They only made 30 shirts so they would not have a lot of leftovers. The shirts, however, were a hit. At \$7 a shirt, they sold out completely on the first day.

"Even our teacher was a little doubtful of us selling so many hand-dyed shirts," marketing student Erica Greer said.

HU on Tap's biggest endeavor, however, was the root beer. They set up huge kegs in the Student Center and sold root beer (on tap, of course) for two bucks a glass. Students lined up across the Student Center to get a taste and to help a good cause.

The students also organized a benefit concert at Midnight Oil. Musical acts included From the Hollow and Craig Featherstone. Even though the concert was free, audience members were encouraged to donate money to the HU on Tap project.

"The concert was just a really fun and really good way to raise awareness for the

project," Greer said.

As of right now, UNICEF is not aware of Harding's efforts to raise money for the Tap Project. Also, because of funding by the AMA, 100 percent of HU on Tap's proceeds will go to the organization.

"We were really just hoping to raise enough money to make this project a viable source of funding so UNICEF will recognize this strategy as something colleges everywhere can take part in," marketing student Bryan Vershum said.

The students did just that. In just a few days, HU on Tap raised \$1,300 for the Tap Project. They plan to send an anonymous check to UNICEF.

"It was a pretty big deal," Greer said. "Even we were surprised."

Greer hopes HU on Tap will continue to raise money for UNICEF in the future and to set an example, encouraging colleges to implement similar projects on their own campuses.

Children's literature seminar on the way

by **KYLIE AKINS**
assistant news editor
courtesy of Harding University

SEARCY, Ark.—Harding University's Graduate Reading Program will present "Voices from Down Yonder" Reader's Theater Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Benson Auditorium on Harding's campus, featuring a collection of children and young adult authors whose works display the life and tradition of the South.

Authors will select pieces of their works and read them aloud to the audience. Teachers are encouraged to bring students to enjoy some of their favorite children and young adult authors.

Registration is \$15 for adults and students, with \$5 going toward book purchase. One adult chaperone is required for every four students. For more information call 501-279-5107.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Please register at least a week in advance. Confirmation of registration

will be sent by e-mail with additional information about the Reader's Theater.

Among the authors featured is Kerry Madden, whose first young adult novel, "Offsides," was on the New York Public Library's Ten Recommended Books of 1997 for Mature Teens. Since then, she has created the popular "Maggie Valley" series, including "Gentle's Holler," "Louisiana's Song" and "Jessie's Mountain."

Also featured is author Kathi Appelt. Her works include John Newbery Honor Book "The Underneath," and young adult books "Kissing Tennessee" and "My Father's Summers."

Current Arkansas resident A. LaFaye has multiple young reader books, including Scott O'Dell Award-winning "Worth," "The Year of the Sawdust Man," and "Strawberry Hill."

Children's author Barbara O'Connor's books include Parent's Choice Silver Award-winning "Greetings From Nowhere" and Dolly Gray Award-winning "Me and Rupert Goody."

Harding had a record

"It feels like we're living in the last place on earth with the first winter storm blowing hard into the mountains. Can't sleep a wink with thoughts crowding my brain."

excerpt from "Jessie's Mountain" by Kerry Madden, who will be featured at the Conference

enrollment this year of more than 6,600 students from all 50 states and 49 foreign countries. It is the largest private university in Arkansas and attracts more National Merit Scholars than any other private university in the state. Harding also maintains campuses in Australia, Chile, England, France/Switzerland, Greece, Italy and Zambia.

For more information, contact: Heather Williams at hwilliams@harding.edu.

HU Interrogation class Course to open in spring, to benefit criminal justice majors and other students

by **ASHLEY ROSENBAUM**
student writer

Students in the criminal justice program at Harding can take a course that will teach interviewing and interrogation techniques. The course will focus on obtaining confessions from criminals, interacting face-to-face with criminals and interacting with victims, witnesses and criminals. The course will take place spring 2010.

The course was designed to help students with the "interaction involved in the face-to-face interview and interrogation; develops knowledge of behavioral reactions of the suspect, victim or witness; develops an understanding of likely response to the behavior of the interviewer; develops a basic skill level in conducting an interview or interrogation as well as testifying in court; includes role playing to reinforce interview and integration techniques" according to the course description.

Director of the Criminal Justice Program B.J. Houston teachers the new class that opens this spring. To prepare for teaching this course, she

attended two interview and interrogation seminars.

"I went to two interview and interrogation seminars and attended one in Vegas and went to one in another part of the state," Houston said. "I attended the John E. Reid and Wicklander-Zulawski seminar. These seminars basically dealt with the same things. The courses teach you how to interview a perpetrator or suspect or interrogate. I suppose you could do the same thing with a witness or victim, but you typically don't."

Houston believes students will benefit from the course in a variety of ways.

"The course will give them a heads up on training they will receive after they get out into the real world and have their specific training in law enforcement," Houston said. "They already want to learn the procedures and techniques that are the 'hallmark' of interview and interrogation, and that is what they will be learning at Harding University. I give the students a hard time and tell them that I am using the techniques on them. When you use these techniques to spot if someone isn't being truthful, you are looking at

body language, voice inflection, eye movement and all the things that deal with reading people and determining whether or not they are being truthful."

Houston believes the course would be beneficial for people who are not in the criminal justice program as well. The skills of perception and human interaction are focuses of the course.

"I absolutely believe that this course would be beneficial for people that are not in the Criminal Justice program," Houston said. "It would be useful for anyone that would be dealing with people in pretty much any aspect. It will help you be a more perceptive consumer as well, like when you are buying a car, for example. It will also be great for just dealing with people in general and will help with perception."

Houston believes that students in this course would be the Christians who are needed in criminal justice.

"We need more Christians in the Criminal Justice system," Houston said. "We want those people who are Christians to go out and do the job right."

studentpublications

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Verizon Droid takes on iPhone

by **NOAH DARNELL**
photographer

With the debut of the Motorola Droid, could it be that the days of the Apple iPhone superiority are coming to an end?

For two and a half years now AT&T has held a trump card.

To the throngs of cell phone buyers stretching to the horizon, Verizon would say, "Our network is the most reliable!" AT&T would say, "Yeah, but we have the iPhone." And the crowd goes wild for AT&T.

During the summer of 2009, however, the rumor mills churned among the masses and the Verizon camp brewed with tight-lipped excitement as their answer to the iPhone took shape.

Then on Oct. 17, the television ad spots began, and the promo Web page went online. The countdown began. The loyal Verizon-ites kept their fingers crossed. AT&T still held fast to "But we have the iPhone." However, this time with notable shuffling to figure out and reply with advertisements, "Well, other than the iPhone, what else do we really offer?"

On Nov. 6, the Droid arrived, and a Motorola-built and Google Android-powered slider smartphone was released on the world along with an aggressive ad campaign based on a parody of the AT&T iPhone's "There's an app for that."

Verizon is currently holding the Droid in direct competition with the iPhone and boasting its prolific 3G broadband coverage.

So how does it stack up compared to the iPhone?

In a single word? Bul-letproof.

From the outside, the Droid is extremely solid. It is thinner than the iPhone

and only very slightly heavier but arguably just as pretty. The body is solid black with gold accents, and, with the addition of a protective shell, the Droid takes on a bit of an armored appearance.

The Droid is a slider, which came as a pleasant surprise to some. You can type on the glass screen in either vertical or horizontal orientation, but the addition of the physical keyboard sets it apart from the iPhone in my opinion. The QWERTY keyboard responds with soft clicking and is smooth to the touch. It's a little awkward to get used to at first — even coming from a BlackBerry — because the phone also sports a directional pad that can be used to select text (instead of trying to peck at the glass screen to select or squeeze the cursor between letters).

Internally, the phone is fast. Blazingly fast. Every program loads as if it is already running. Additionally, the ability to run simultaneous apps while making calls and browsing up to eight Web pages at the same time reveals the power this little Droid can muster. In short, the Droid can run more programs faster than the typical user will be able to use at the same time.

A major claim to fame is the Droid's integration with Google and, more specifically, Google Maps. It has full GPS capability and will manage turn-by-turn directions just as well as the best Tom-Tom or Garmin navigation system on the market. An additional perk is Google's Street View integrated into the turn-by-turn directions, and, yes, that means being able to see what the turn actually looks like before you even get there.

The addition of a five-megapixel camera is extremely



welcome to the usual camera options on typical Verizon phones. Not only is it five-megapixel (more resolution than my first digital camera) but it has autofocus, a close-focus macro mode and a rather powerful flash. The camera is a bit slow on the shooting, but for everyday use the camera is actually extremely versatile.

Some prospective buyers might like to know that the Droid is not quite as "smooth" as the iPhone. It relies more on quick snaps between programs or horizontal/vertical orientation instead of the fluid transitions for which Apple is known. This difference is more of an aesthetic choice than actual fault, but it makes the Android software on the Droid look a little rougher.

Without any partiality to the Droid, I can confidently say that it outperforms the iPhone in side-to-side speed tests. In my office in Searcy, Ark., I am able to test both Wi-Fi and the 3G broadband speeds with the Droid — both of which outpace the iPhone. The Droid's browser loads standard Web pages almost twice as fast as the iPhone's Safari with Wi-Fi. And, as far as my local area is concerned, I was only able to test the Droid with Verizon's 3G broadband services because the AT&T has no 3G broadband services here.

Major advantage: Droid.

The apps run smoothly seamlessly with each other with the phone. You can take a photo and send it from the camera app to an editor app where you can edit it, then upload it to the Internet via the Facebook or Flickr app — or text message it to your friend.

Of course, along with every piece of technology come its shortcomings. The battery life is embarrassingly and annoyingly short. We're talking a mere 14 or 16 hours under normal use. However, in the grand scheme of things, you're carrying a laptop's worth of power in your pocket, so I'm not surprised by its diminutive battery life.

So what is the verdict? Did Verizon bring a serious competitor to the beat-the-iPhone fight?

I say: absolutely.

The iPhone has a solid two years of growth on the Droid, and that makes it an easy win on name recognition alone. However, the Droid has hit the ground running: over 250,000 were sold in the first week. Originally touted as the iPhone-killer, the Motorola Droid is a rugged piece of hardware running reliable software with more technological firepower than most computers possessed only a few years ago.

Sudoku

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

Answer to last issue's Sudoku

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

Answer to last issue's cryptogram

Men kick friendship around like a football, but it doesn't seem to crack. Women treat it like glass and it goes to pieces.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

The Bison Crossword

- Across**
- 1 Romaine lettuce
 - 4 Ayn Rand's ____
Shrugged
 - 9 Stage, in time
 - 14 Strike
 - 15 Prepared
 - 16 Fur of the marten
 - 17 So. state (Abbr.)
 - 18 Butterfly beginning
 - 20 Tennis units
 - 22 Rich brown pigment
 - 23 Jacuzzi
 - 24 Clips
 - 26 Bull's eye
 - 28 Fugitives from justice
 - 31 Gazelle
 - 34 Permits
 - 35 Chum
 - 37 Single
 - 38 Shellac, e.g.
 - 41 Maldives
 - 43 Vase
 - 44 Sally Field's
Norma ____
 - 45 Fibs
 - 46 Hush money
 - 48 Marine mammal
 - 52 Former Ford
 - 55 Scandinavian
 - 56 Sense organ
 - 57 Tempts
 - 60 Grade
 - 61 Overwhelmed, totally
 - 64 Swedish river
 - 65 Go furtively
 - 66 Fisherman
 - 67 Fr. summer
 - 68 Disturbances
 - 69 Halts

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21		22						23			
24				25			26				27			
28					29	30				31			32	33
				34				35	36				37	
38	39	40						41			42			
43				44				45						
46			47				48					49	50	51
					52			53	54			55		
				56				57		58	59		60	
61				62						63		64		
65							66					67		
68							69						70	

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- Down**
- 1 Pure
 - 2 Some tankers
 - 3 Radio noise
 - 4 Curve
 - 5 Receptions
 - 6 Tardy
 - 7 Tao virtuosos
 - 8 Middle East nation
 - 9 Pressure unit (Abbr.)
 - 10 Horse's headgear
 - 11 Bath
 - 12 Bacon cut
 - 13 Always (Poet.)
 - 19 Golf score
 - 21 Diminutive
 - 25 Impaled, like a fish
 - 27 Sailing vessel
 - 29 Bunsen burner
 - 30 This (Sp.)
 - 32 Conclusion
 - 33 Guitarist Paul
 - 35 Heap
 - 36 China setting
 - 38 U-boat
 - 39 Slip up
 - 40 Like some cartoons
 - 42 John Jacob ____
 - 47 Part of the Malay Archipelago
 - 48 Sidewalks divider
 - 49 Stock dealer
 - 50 Real property
 - 51 Staggered
 - 53 Shade tree
 - 54 Greases
 - 56 Monetary unit
 - 58 ____ Stanley Gardner
 - 59 Appear
 - 61 Fall mo.
 - 62 Increases
 - 63 Medics (Abbr.)

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Google Wave churns the online ocean

by **JESSICA ARDREY**
student writer

Since its announcement in May, Google Wave has stirred up a lot of excitement in the technological sphere. The corporation's newest baby, Google Wave, is an online real-time communication and collaboration tool.

Wave is the brainchild of Sydney Google office technician Jens Rasmussen. Along with his brother Lars, Rasmussen began mapping out his ideas for Google Wave in early 2003.

Wave was put on the back burner while the brothers began building what eventually became Google Maps. Wave was eventually brought back into focus in 2007 and launched this September.

The hype surrounding Google Wave had people scrambling for a way into the invitation-only platform. Praise that the product was the latest and greatest fostered claims that Wave would profoundly change the way we communicate online, and eventually do away with classic e-mail altogether.

"Anything that Google comes out with seems to create a lot of hype," Harding student Travis Bond said. "Gmail, the Android phone, Google Talk, Google Voice ... It's just a huge company with a lot of influence behind its name."

So what is Google Wave, and why is everyone making such a big deal about it?

In its most basic form, it is a combination of e-mail and instant messaging, but with more functionality. Wave takes the best features of each and combines them into a single setting. It has components like the ability to drag and drop photos from your desktop into the conversation.

As the name implies, the program works in waves. Google defines them in three statements, the first describing a wave as "equal parts conversation and document."

Each wave allows text, videos, photos, maps and other accessories. A wave is also shared between participants, who can comment and reply anywhere in the message or even edit it in real-time, almost like a live Wiki.

The last characteristic is that a wave is live. A user can see what another

user is typing as he or she types it, allowing faster and more realistic communication.

After a few weeks, Bond approves of the platform. "Its best aspect is the user's ability to see real-time conversation and typing," Bond said.

In addition to real-time traits, Wave also has an array of downloadable applications called "gadgets." These extensions range from games of chess and weather programs to gadgets made specifically for business waves.

"Robots" are another new feature. Robots act as contacts and, when added to a wave, perform certain tasks.

The Twitter robot, named Tweety, allows the user to update his or her Twitter account. Rosetta Stone also has its own robot, aptly named Rosy Etta.

When added to a wave, Rosy will translate the text from whatever language the first user speaks into whatever language the second user speaks, and Rosy does on its own and in real-time.

However, in its beta version, Wave still has some glitches as well as some hurdles to overcome.

One problem is that not everybody has a Google account. Where e-mail allows messaging no matter where the account is held, Wave is for Google users only.

Other obstacles include a lack of an obvious spotlight pointing out who made which changes. In multiple-user waves, new messages (called "blips") directed toward a specific user also lack emphasis.

Despite its shortcomings, on which developers are still working, most of Google Wave's reviews are very positive. The one thing that is necessary for Wave to succeed is people.

"The only thing that makes Google Wave awesome is the community, and without a lot of people, you just sit at a blank screen," Bond said.

Whether the majority of e-mail users will switch to Wave is still up in the air. In the past, Google has introduced some platforms that appear in a blaze of glory, but quietly die out.

For now, however, its outlook is nothing less than enthusiastic, so for Google's sake, let's hope this Wave isn't washed up.

Pleasantly 'blind sided' by film

by **JORDAN BAILEY**
copy editor

Over Thanksgiving break, I not only participated in the national holiday that calls for the consumption of a large bird, accompanied with mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. I also spent a lot of time with my family, which involves football and movie theaters. Our annual traditions usually demand at least one feature film be viewed, and our selection this year was "The Blind Side."

The movie boasts stars Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw and Kathy Bates, but its true draw is the moving storyline based on a true story. Newcomer Quinton Aaron stars as Michael Oher, a teenager whose life has left him without a home or family he can rely on. Oher is taken into the home of Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy, played by Bullock and McGraw respectively, after Leigh Anne discovers him wandering alone on a cold night without warm clothes and a real destination.

The subsequent relationship that

develops between the Tuohy family and Oher rings of reality as they adapt to each other gradually and develop a mutual trust. One of the key points of the story depends on the immense size of Oher and his spot on the high school football team. With the help of Leigh Anne's admonition to view the team as his family and protect them, Michael becomes a brilliant defensive football player. His aptitude to protect and love drives his athletic success.

Bullock's portrayal of Leigh Anne Tuohy is entertaining and realistic as she struggles to be a genuine person and use her blessings wisely. Her sharp replies and witty banter coincide naturally with the charity and affection she shows for her children and Michael. Leigh Anne Tuohy, as played by Bullock, is not a sugar-coated Southern housewife. She has spunk, and the charm of the character lies in the marriage of that spunk and her good heart.

Quinton Aaron plays Michael Oher with an understated style of acting that works beautifully. He contributes to a

moving story by not overacting or milking the situation, and his character choices shine as authentic and believable. He does not portray a stereotypical football player from a bad background with trouble in school; he is a true character, loyal to the story.

McGraw made his name as a singer, and I encourage artists to not mix genres, but his supporting role in the film works. The Tuohy children are well portrayed by Lily Collins and Jae Head, and Kathy Bates shines, as usual, as the tutor hired to pull Michael's grades up. The cast and plot work well to tell a powerful story about acceptance and overcoming challenges with a spirit of tenacity.

I admit that I had only minor interest in seeing yet another sports film about the triumph of a downtrodden athlete. I went to the theater to spend time with my family, but I left having seen a good movie. Although it will not be added to my short list of brilliant classic films, "The Blind Side" is worth a trip to the theater and the price of a ticket.

Former Congressman calls students to be a 'great generation'

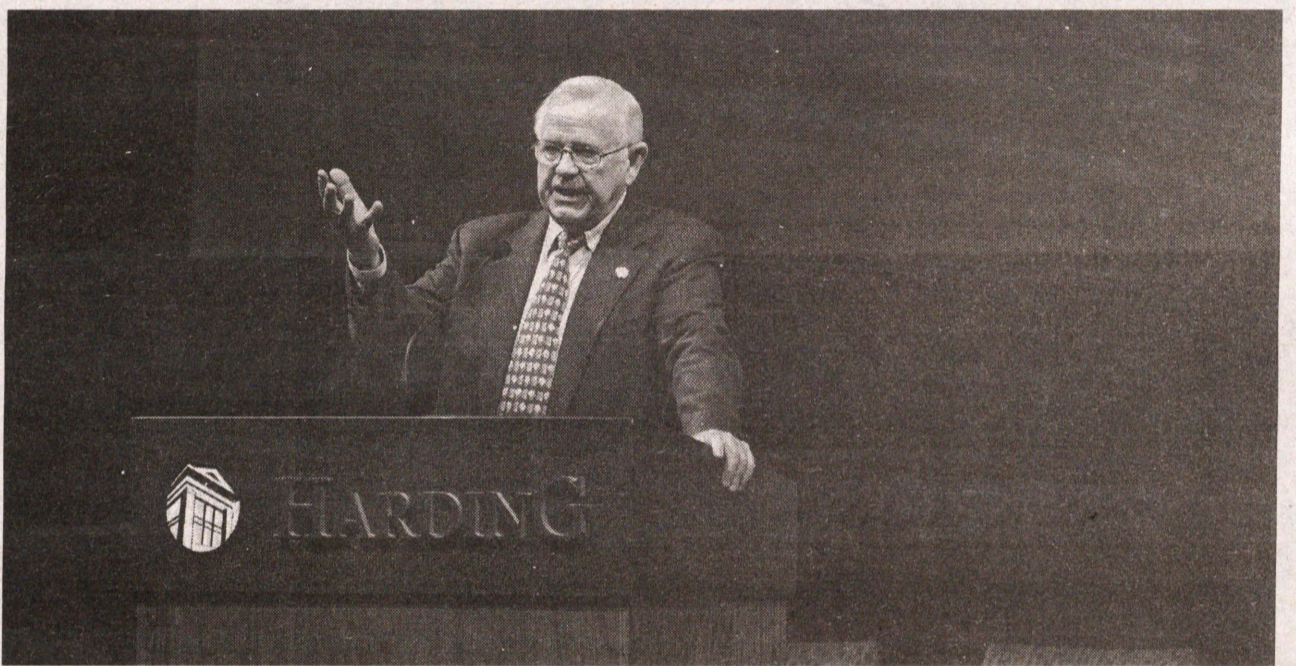


photo by NOAH DARNELL | The Bison

Former Congressman Ed Bethune speaks about the current political climate of the nation on Wednesday in chapel. He challenged students to be the next "great generation," referencing the Founding Fathers and the generation that lived through the Great Depression and World War II.

Harding Squirrels

by AMANDA PRUITT



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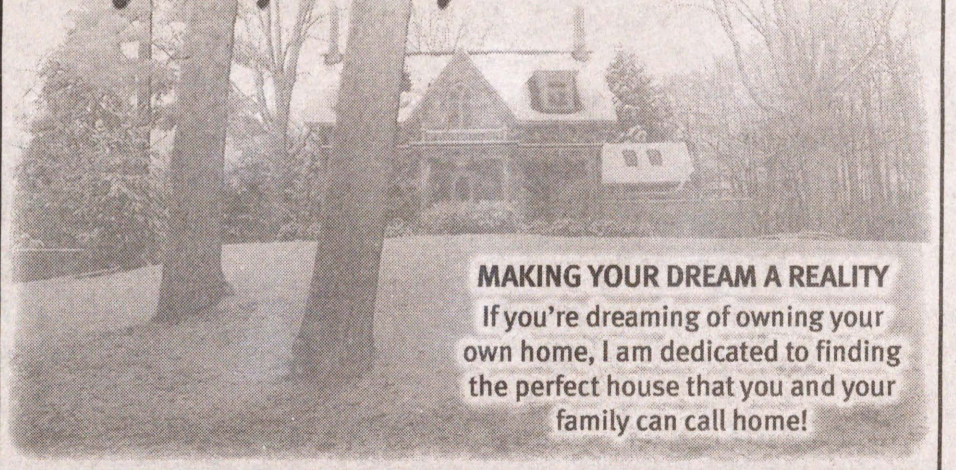
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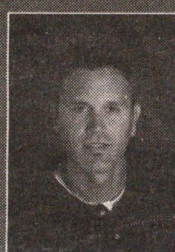
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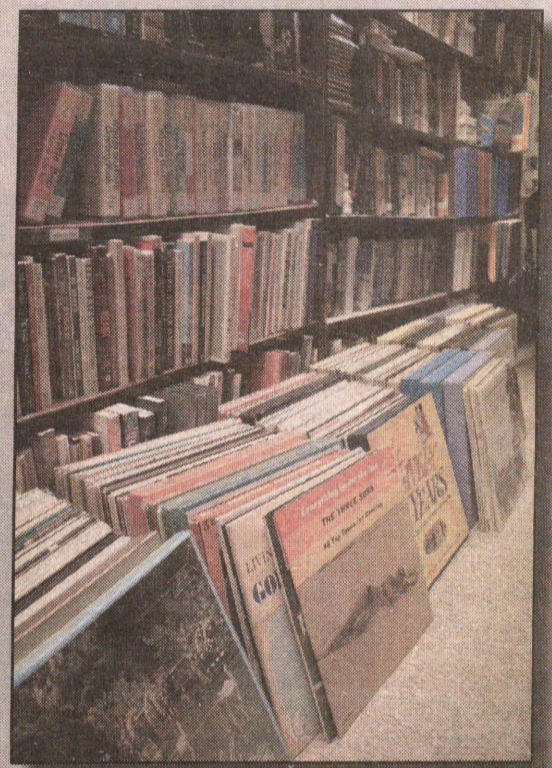


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Council committed to overcoming illiteracy in White County

By **KYLIE AKINS**
assistant news editor

As 14 percent of White County functions without the ability to read or write, many of them quickly learn to cope in every aspect of their life. They develop techniques to fake literacy and become skilled at reading everything but the letters that are so foreign to them. These people often have families and successful careers but have never learned how to read. One man living such a life came to the White County Literacy Council at the age of 66 and declared, "I've finally decided enough is enough. I'm going to learn how to read."

The Literacy Council was organized 33 years ago by several women who chose to address the problem of illiteracy in the county. After a period of activity and growth upon their founding in Searcy, the Council began to deteriorate as the women aged or moved on to other pursuits. Foothills took up the Literacy Council until the school became Arkansas State University in Searcy and their teaching load grew to be too heavy to support it.

At that point, the Searcy Library took over the Council and hired a part-time director to oversee the proj-

ect. Ann Nieto became the director about five years ago and is still working to keep the organization running.

"My old college motto was 'you learn to do by doing,'" Nieto said. "That was literally the case. I took workshops, I went to conventions and meetings and tried to observe as much as I could. And of course the best way to learn about the actual teaching is to do it. That's why I have been grateful for my abundant supply of students."

The council exists to serve the 3,500 to 4,000 people in the county who are unable to read and write. Nieto said she was once unaware of the number of people who are illiterate in her own community and is now dedicated to teaching those who desire to learn.

"We don't think about it in Searcy because of the college and our decent school systems, but there are many, many people out there that can't read or write; every aspect of one's life is affected by the ability or inability to read," Nieto said. "We cannot make people come to us. Anybody who walks through our door, we give our service to them, no charge."

Nieto reported that many of her students are immigrants classified as English as

a Second Language students. She said she is happy to teach anyone who is willing to learn, but the council has received criticism for that choice.

"If you look at it, it just doesn't make any sense, because if people are going to be living in this country, they need to know how to speak our language," Nieto said. "Everybody is going to be better off if they know how to speak our language. So the very idea that just because they can't speak our language we shouldn't teach them to speak our language makes no sense whatsoever."

Nieto described the 14 current tutors as retired teachers, house wives and empty-nesters with the desire to do something productive with their time, and others are those who are so blessed that they do not have to work and now wish to give back to the community. The Literacy Council was also granted an Americore volunteer, 1980 Harding graduate Melinda LaFavers. Nieto said she used to have Harding students as tutors, but when they left for break or graduation, their students were left behind without a teacher.

The Literacy Council's desire is for each tutor to complete a level of teaching with their student before

either leaves the learning process. Nieto stressed that each student learns at his or her own pace, and a tutor must have patience, creativity and a satisfaction from teaching. Currently there are about 33 students who on average come in for two one-hour sessions a week.

"I would like to see us grow in terms of reaching more people to teach and training tutors so they can teach those students," Nieto said. "At the same time, we can't force people to do it. We have to accept those who come to us, and we want to be able to welcome them with open arms and offer them our services."

The current location for the Literacy Council also serves as a second-hand book store, stocked with used books donated by the community to help fund the organization. Nieto said she always welcomes any donation of sellable books.

"Our new board member is telling me that I will have to be ruthless and get rid of things that are not selling," Nieto said. "And I know he's right because our space is so limited. But that just kills me, because I am just so fond of history, literature, humanities that it just hurts me to think about recycling those books."

Joyce Turley, Searcy

library regional manager for the White County regional library system, has personally seen the effects of illiteracy on one's life as she has encountered people who were unable to read or write. To her, literacy helps a person experience a productivity and self-worth one would otherwise be unable to attain if he or she continued to be limited by illiteracy.

"Any person that is dedicated to seeing that these illiterate people learn to read is fulfilling a great need," Turley said.

Nieto said she hopes that more people will hear of the Literacy Council and come to it with the desire to be taught to read and write. She expressed how important literacy is in a country dependent on its language for so many aspects of life.

"It affects your education, political and health knowledge and understanding," Nieto said. "If you can't read your prescription and you can't remember what the doctor said, that's a problem. It affects their spiritual development because I believe the Bible is the word of God, and if you can't read that word, then it's going to affect you. Our mission is to reach out and teach adults how to read and write English."



"Every aspect of one's life is affected by the ability or inability to read."