

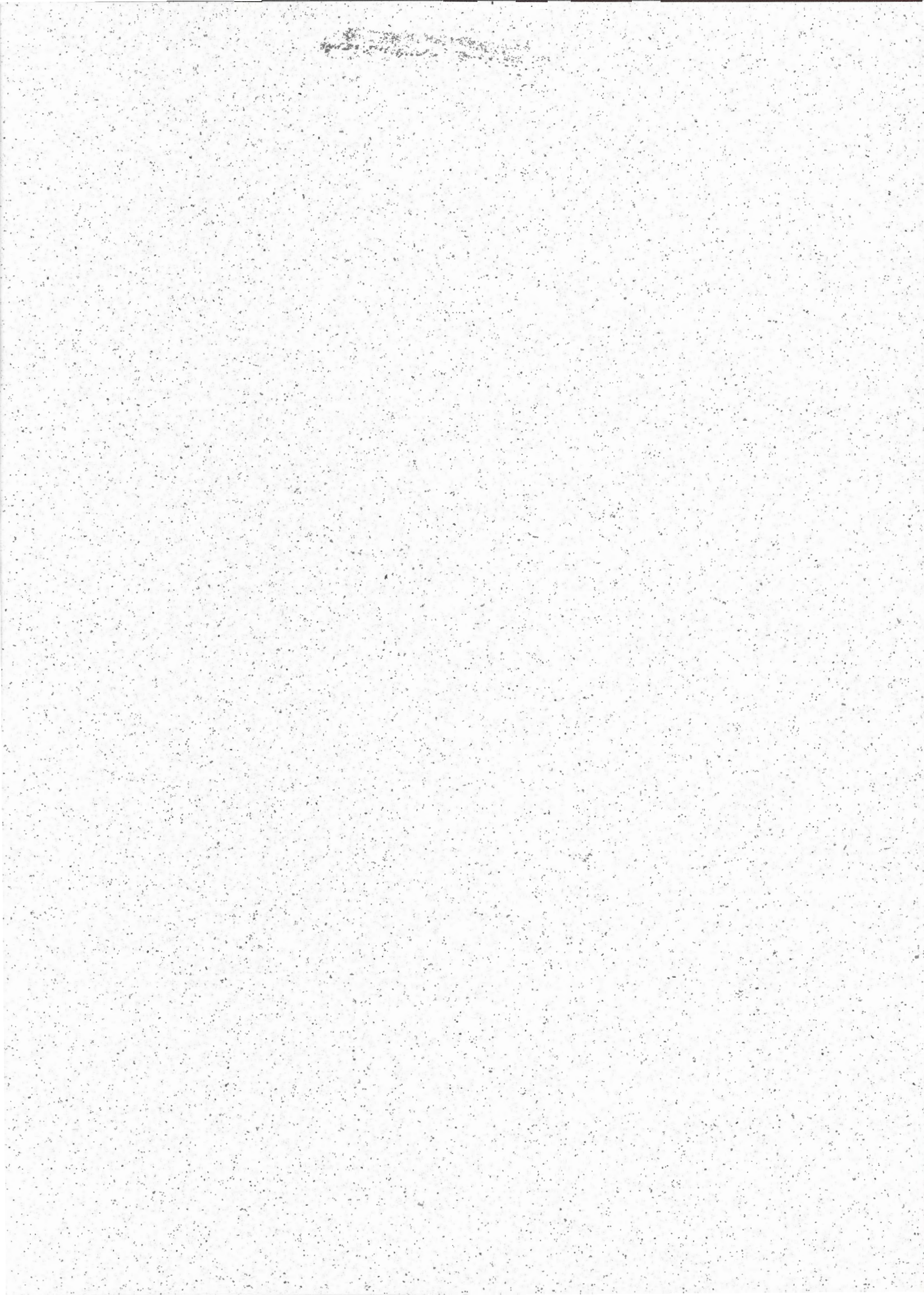
Reaching Beyond the

WALL

1996 *Ouachitonian*

---







*Reaching  
Beyond the Wall* **CONTENTS**



*Student Life*  
4



*Mini-Mag*  
32A

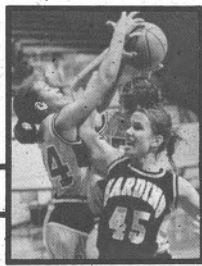




*Academics*  
46



*Organizations*  
68



*Sports*  
96



*People*  
128



*Community*  
202



*Index*  
226



# Reaching Beyond the Wall



After tearing through the walls of Mitchell Auditorium, the force of gravity pushes the bucket of the back-hoe to a resting position on the ground. Reaching beyond the aging walls of Moses-Provine Science Building, construction crews leveled Mitchell Auditorium and laid the foundations for the new, technologically advanced Jones Science Center, which would stand on the former site of Mitchell Auditorium. •photo by Dr. Jeff Root

## 1996 Ouachitonian

Ouachita Baptist University

410 Ouachita Street

P.O. Box 3761

Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71998-0001

(501) 245-5211

Volume 87

Student Population: 1440



# THE WALL



*photo by Guy Lyons*

*Opening*



Packed cars directed their way through the gates **REACHING** into campus. One by one, students returned to "the Ouachita bubble" encased in the segments of brick wall which circled the University.

Another school year had arrived and with it came the benefits of life inside the wall. The Ouachita family both **BEYOND** and inside joined together to kick off the second phase of the Decade of Progress, introducing the Bernice Young Jones School of Fine Arts and unveiling plans for the Jones

Science Center. The MIDI lab placed theory composition majors at the forefront of technology while restructuring the speech department provided new opportunities to speech majors. New classes would teach new skills, advancing each of us one step closer to a successful career. Student-led community service projects exemplified the benefits of community involvement and social development. And the vast numbers of international students and exchange programs encouraged us to understand the world around us.

Yet, the wall around campus always had points of opening. Never one long, continuous wall, but rather a collection of miniature brick walls, **THE** wall served as shelter enough to build unity. Inside the wall, we were a family – a family who grew together, building our strengths and minimizing our weaknesses. We learned from each other the skills needed to achieve success in our careers, the ways to effectively interact and communicate with others, and the power to possess compassion and understanding for the world awaiting us outside.

Everything we experienced inside the **WALL** prepared us for the great life experiences beyond. The challenge had been plainly placed before us – to reach beyond the wall.

*Decked out in flannel and camouflage and wearing tightly secured rollerblades, sophomore Jim Yates scales a wall in Grant Plaza. In the quiet hours of the morning, the breaking points of the afternoon, and the dwindling light of the evening, students often found time for recreation and physical activity. The bricked walls of Grant Plaza served as a congregating point for students as well as signified the circle of friends students found inside the wall of campus.*



# STUDENT LIFE



*photo by Guy Lyons*



The camera crews positioned themselves on the platform as the Ouachita family gathered on the lawn of Cone-Bottoms. President Elrod stepped to the podium and announced that the efforts of **REACHING** out to friends and supporters in the community proved beneficial and the second phase of the Decade of Progress would begin.

Bricks crumbled and crashed to the ground. Construction crews leveled Mitchell Auditorium, forcing students to search for another place to hold events. The administration responded to this need by constructing the Tiger Den. In addition, they moved **BEYOND** the norm by adding new furniture and ping-pong tables to the Tiger Grill and offering students the opportunity to use their meal tickets in the campus "restaurant."

Spotlights flashed across the stage as hosts and hostesses and campus organizations entertained a crowd of students and alumni attending the 17th annual Tiger Tunes. As **THE** show concluded, we gained a greater insight into the world outside as international students performed cultural dances to their native music.

Community service projects, road trips, and current events brought us closer together as a family while teaching us to reach beyond our comfort zones. We fixed-up shelters and hosted parties for non-profit organizations. We traveled down new roads, taking in culture everywhere we went. And we continually discussed the latest issues – the guilt or innocence of O.J., the scandal of Whitewater, and the deaths of treasured celebrities. Each aspect of student life – the friends, the events, the memories – cemented stronger bonds inside and moved us one foot closer to stepping outside of "the bubble" and reaching beyond the **WALL**.

*The spotlight shines on the Tiger Tunes Hosts and Hostesses' set of "Friends" while the audience responds with three signature claps. Matt Buffalo, Dana Campbell, Kevin Holt, Kenneth Kinney, Karen Wood, Leslie Syrgley, Marty Collier, and Ashley Arrington entertained a packed crowd for three evenings with various acts including a tribute to the '70s and the set of "Friends." Students agreed that the friends and memories made inside the campus wall were the ones they would cherish for life.*



Construction sites,  
higher enrollment,  
and increased  
funding were all  
parts of the  
University's intense

# Progress

By: Sheri Montgomery



## Andy Westmoreland

*"Our work is different from that of most universities. We at Ouachita have an opportunity to change lives for God".*

"Our work is different from that of most Universities," Executive Vice President Andy Westmoreland boldly said as he talked about the Phase II goals of the Decade of Progress. "We at Ouachita have an opportunity to change lives for God."

This second phase was titled "A Window of Opportunity." For over a year, 140 trustees, students, faculty, and friends worked building a framework for this window. It was a window that would allow all of those involved to join in seeing the opportunities that lay ahead of them. "Our goal," said Westmoreland, "is to attempt to bring all of Ouachita constituent groups together at one time and give them the opportunity to be involved in what is happening at Ouachita."

The theme for Phase II was based on "A Compact for a Renewed Community" and stretched forth with goals that encompassed that theme. The second phase of the Decade of Progress saw renewal of the community as something that must begin here, move through the state of Arkansas, and stretch around the globe.

Although the second phase of the Decade of Progress encompassed both the physical and visible aspects of student life, more than half of the campaign efforts were intended for the less visible. Sixty percent of the projected funds were planned for endowment. These

endowments would greatly improve the entire body. The purpose was to enhance the life of the present and future student. By improving and enhancing the curriculum and the computer technology, graduates were able to reach into the 21st century prepared to meet the fast-changing technological world.

Along with the endowments for improved education came the plans for improvements in learning atmosphere. Phase II initially kicked off with a ground-breaking ceremony on October 12, 1995, for the new science building, replacing Moses-Provine. The commencement for this ceremony took place on the steps of Cone-Bottoms Hall, a project that was realized in Phase I of the decade's campaign. A new science building was badly needed as student enrollment increased. Biology major Lee Coon said, "The new building may attract more students into the science department."

"If we intend to prepare students for the 21st century, then we need 21st century technology. The new science building will provide that opportunity," said Chris Newberry.

Among the physical improvements were renovations to Evans Student Center and Birkett Williams Dining Hall. These improvements accounted for 34 percent of the campaign budget. "There is a recognition of need of a student center," said Ian Cosh. "There is a fairly limited number of semi-private areas for the students to hang out." It was a growing consensus that the students wanted a comfortable place to spend time with each other and just have fun.

The development office, though unrecognized by many students, was constantly behind the scenes of the ever changing campus. "I make no apologies for asking for money because we're about changing lives," Westmoreland said without hesitation.

All who were a part of the Decade of Progress found themselves at the very heart of what God was doing. They began looking beyond that window and began reaching beyond the wall.







**R**achael Ward greets a guest at a reception in honor of Mrs. Jones. The reception, along with many other activities, followed the announcement of the new Decade of Progress Campaign. *photo by Barbara's Photography of Arkadelphia*

**B**ernice Jones of Springdale joined in the announcement of the next phase of Ouachita's growth. Jones, who has contributed greatly in the past, donated millions to construct the Harvey Jones Science Center and to create the Bernice Young Jones School of Fine Arts. *photo by Barabra's Photography of Arkadelphia*



**J**ohn L. Heflin, president of Terminix, Inc. of Arkansas, speaks to the crowd at the announcement of the next phase in Ouachita's development campaign. Heflin, who was the national chairman for the new "Window of Opportunity" campaign, worked to see Ouachita enter into a new era of accomplishments and growth. *photo by Barbara's Photography of Arkadelphia*



Checking the fire outside their Native American sweat hut, sophomore Joshua Ulery and freshmen Jon McClure and John Bailey take advantage of their natural setting. Unique adventures like this and others helped students get away from it all and experience something that they had never done before. •photo by Jim Yates

Enjoying a beautiful day in the sun, freshman Julie McClain cycles around the campus. Riding bicycles was popular on campus, allowing a degree of transportation and fun. •photo by Jim Yates



Freshman Sean Newcomb plays a game of frisbee golf using a fire hydrant as a target. In this popular alternative golfing game, objects were selected as "holes" and the points were tallied on how close the frisbee landed to the target. •photo by Jim Yates

Junior Mary Beth Barton and senior Pam Blackmon have a great time soaking up the sun and enjoying the wonderful weather. When temperatures were nice outside students could be found enjoying the outdoors at different spots all over campus. •photo by Jim Yates







*During the hustle and bustle of campus life some students still took time to stop and enjoy the great*

# Outdoors

*By: Jeff Walpole*



## Jodie Matthews

*"I live in Arkansas, so it's easy for me to take the beauty of nature for granted. But when I visited the campus on preview day, the beauty of the campus overwhelmed me."*

Seasons came and went, but the illustrious beauty of the great outdoors remained constant.

In the fall, the tempo of life in the great outdoors resembled that of student life. As squirrels scampered about gathering nuts and acorns for winter, students hurried about with their many activities, assignments, and tasks. As the leaves, one by one, floated down to the earth below covering the ground with a blazing carpet of color, so also the days of the fall semester, one by one, came to an end.

The surroundings of the great outdoors provided students an atmosphere of peace and relaxation. Some students enjoyed strolling along the paths around the gazebo. "When I need a break or just need to think by myself in a quiet place, I head down to the gazebo," said Daniel Lore, a junior missions major. "I even do my homework outdoors sometimes just so I will be relaxed."

In the winter, the crisp and pure air blowing through the tall, Arkansas timber provided an exhilarating experience of its own. "It's so easy since I'm from Arkansas to become immune to the beauty of the great outdoors that surrounds us," said Carol Davis, a senior communications major.

In the spring, all life was quickened and the land with all its plants, trees, and bushes thrived from the rainfall and warmth of the bright sunshine. The campus was alive with the flight and singing of birds, frolicking of squirrels, and strange sightings of even a few skunks. Casey Brewer, a sophomore, said, "It was so neat each morning as I woke up, the birds were singing outside my window and made it enjoyable for me to get up each morning." Some students enjoyed the many squirrels on campus. "It makes the campus seem friendly and safe when you see the squirrels all running around and playing on campus," said Chad Gallagher, a senior political science major. Some students even had disturbing encounters of the striped kind with some of the skunks that ventured on campus.

The great outdoors added to the enjoyment of attending school for many students. Jodie Matthews, a sophomore communications major, said, "I live in Arkansas, so it's easy for me to take the beauty of nature for granted." Matthews also said, "But when I visited the campus on a preview day, the beauty of the campus overwhelmed me." Ben Carothers, a sophomore history major, said, "You don't have to travel to great distances to enjoy the great outdoors, it's right here to take advantage of and enjoy."

The scenic beauty on and around campus provided students a glimpse of the glorious splendor of the great outdoors all at the convenience of campus life and its surroundings.







**K**appa Chi Men's Social Club marched to the beat of the right drummer as they won their second consecutive Tiger Tunes victory. At complete attention, the Kappas portrayed the raising of the flag at Iwogima during their finale. •photo by Guy Lyons

**C**hi Delta Women's Social Club tries to stalk down their competition in Tiger Tunes. The Chi Deltas, in their striped and colorful outfits, portrayed tigers as their character for Tiger Tunes. They incorporated many different themes, from songs to characters such as Tony the Tiger off of Frosted Flakes commercials. •photo by Guy Lyons



**B**eta Beta Men's Social Club surfs on to be the first runner-up in Tiger Tunes. Acting like babies, with baby blue bonnets and diapers to match, the Beta's performed to songs they revised to reflect their theme. •photo by Guy Lyons

**H**ostess Leslie Srygley and host Kevin Holt, both seniors, sing to the beat of the 70s while the rest of the hosts and hostesses back them up. This group supplied entertainment for the crowds between the different club performances at Tiger Tunes. •photo by Guy Lyons







*Long, hard hours of practice, along with props and costumes, provided entertainment for the crowds at*

# Tiger Tunes

*By: Marci Phillips*



## Heather Callaway

*"The event promotes teamwork and allows the club members to see how much more can be accomplished working together."*



"To the left, to the left, to the left, right, left, now slide soldier slide." The men of Kappa Chi slid back into the championship at the 17th annual Tiger Tunes. The soldiers, along with seven other clubs and organizations, took the stage to entertain the largest crowds of Tiger Tunes' history. The show's success was a result of hard work from the club members, OSF, and the hosts and hostesses.

In preparation for the show, the clubs sacrificed many late hours to practice. "Our practices were short, but we got a lot done," said Blake Pointer. "We were good because we had fun." Whether the club practices were time consuming or not, all the clubs' performances were entertaining for the other students, parents, faculty, and especially the judges.

The judges scored each club in the categories of theme and lyric, costume, choreography, and music. Cash prizes were awarded to the club which scored the highest amount of points in each category. The points of each category were added together from each night of the show for the announcement of the

winners. The club members lined the aisles of Jones Performing Arts Center as the OSF Special Events Chair, Heather Callaway, announced Kappa Chi Men's Social Club as the grand prize winner. Beta Beta Men's Social Club placed second, the Chi Delta Women's Social Club placed third, and the

EEE Women's Social Club came in fourth.

Callaway directed OSF through the intense construction of the show. She outlined the process of the show and worked directly with the clubs. "The event promotes teamwork and allows the club members to see how much more can be accomplished working together," said Callaway. Cory Hutchinson served as the assistant chairman and worked under Callaway. "Helping organize the clubs backstage, which what was what I did, is only a small part of the show," said Hutchinson.

As the clubs were preparing backstage, the hosts and hostesses warmed the stage. A tribute to the 70s was a favorite as the crowd danced to "Y-M-C-A," along with the hosts and hostesses, who were Karen Wood, Kevin Holt, Marty Collier, Ashley Arrington, Kenneth Kinney, Matt Buffalo, Leslie Srygley, and Dana Campbell. They were directed by Srygley. Jolene Zook directed the Combo which was visible on stage for the show.

Other club members which participated were the BSU, Tri Chi Women's Social Club, Gamma Phi Women's Social Club, and the Interational Club. The International Club performed but did not compete. "We are honored to have the International Club as part of our program each year," said Mac Sisson, faculty director of Tiger Tunes.

Everyone who participated enjoyed the show despite the great deal of hard work that was involved. "Many hours of dedication, time, and sacrifice go into the program each year by many OSF students whose main goal is to help their fellow students," said Sisson, "and in this case to present an outstanding show for which everyone can be proud."



Campus tours, dinners, visiting alumni, and sold out performances marked a time of

Her heart skipped a beat and butterflies fluttered in her stomach when they called her name. A tear filled her eye and a huge smile overcame her face as wild applause filled her ears. Dr. Ben Elrod and former queen, April Shields, crowned the 1995 Homecoming queen, Amy Fisher.

The Homecoming ceremonies were held prior to the game against Harding University at A.U. Williams Field. Thirty-five female students were chosen by various clubs, classes, and organizations to compete for the title. Fisher represented the Baptist Student Union. "It means so much because it comes from my fellow students," said Fisher. "This is the biggest honor of my college career."

In addition to the game Fisher and her court were honored at the Saturday night performance of Tiger Tunes. The Court consisted of T.K. Zellers, first runner-up, sponsored by the freshman class; Erin Crumley, second runner-up, sponsored by Kappa Chi Men's Social Club; Julie Snider, third runner-up, sponsored by the 1995 Kappa Chi pledge class; and Misty Butts, fourth runner-up, sponsored by the sophomore class. The 1995 Court was not the only Homecoming royalty present at the ceremonies.

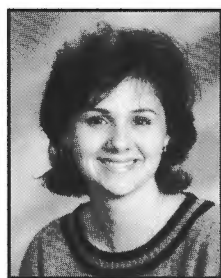
The Homecoming Court of 1950 attended the festivities as they brought back tradition and school spirit. The new and the returning royalty were posed together for photos at half-time. The ladies of the court included Carolyn Short Stalling, Donna Sullivan Stark, Ann Strickland Vining, Billie Geurin Sharp, and Almeda Park Elliot. Vining spoke at the Homecoming chapel as she shared her experience as a student and Homecoming queen.

Student Senate created a theme, "Ouachita: a Legacy Worth Living," to present tradition and school spirit. The theme ran through the entire week on campus as the decorations and welcome banners were hung. Alumni were welcomed as they attended reunions, a buffet, campus tours, and the carnival. Senate's hard work and efforts were led by Chad Gallagher, vice-president. "The Senate is seeking to give an added program and a visual boost to the happenings," said Gallagher. "We are attempting to give Homecoming the emphasis it deserves."

The crowd stood as the band played and the purple and gold balloons drifted further into the sky. The excitement of the game was moving throughout the crowd as the team took the field. The return of alumni, former students, and friends was an enjoyable time for everyone. However, the reunion of old friendships was the true joy of Homecoming.

# Festivities

By: Marci Phillips



## Amy Fisher

*"It means so much because it comes from my fellow students. This is the biggest honor of my college career."*

Homecoming queen Amy Fisher of Beebe smiles with her court after being crowned. The court consisted of third runner-up, Julie Snider of Rose Bud; first runner-up, T.K. Zellers of Van Buren; fourth runner-up, Misti Butts of Little Rock; and second runner-up, Erin Crumley of Denver, Colorado. *photo by Guy Lyons*







The new queen, senior Amy Fisher, smiles at her father and escort, Mike. Fisher received her crown from the former queen, April Shields. Fisher competed against 35 other students. •photo by Guy Lyons

Misty Butts, a sophomore, is shocked as she is announced as the third runner-up for the Homecoming court. Butts was escorted by her father, Chester, during the ceremony. Over 35 students competed for the Homecoming crown. •photo by Guy Lyons



Courts from the past and present unite during the Homecoming festivities. The courts included Donna Sullivan Stark, Misty Butts, Almeda Park Elliott, Erin Crumley, Ann Strickland Vining (1950 Homecoming queen), Amy Fisher (1995 Homecoming queen), Billie Geurin Sharp, Julie Snider, Carolyn Short Stallings and T.K. Zellers. The members of the 1950 court had remained close friends all throughout the years. •photo by Guy Lyons



She felt everyone stare as she walked into class. The professor started the lecture, and she soon began nodding off. Her eye lids got heavier and heavier as the lecture progressed. She was almost asleep when the infamous word jerked her awake – “Pledge!”

Pledges were seen during the week of January 21 to 26 lining up beside the cafeteria, carrying notebooks, and doing selected “duties.” Induction week had some surprises in it this year. The Kappa Chi Men’s Social Club inducted 31 pledges, the most pledges any club had had in several years. Tri Chi pledges dumped their usual ribbons, replacing them with bear beanies. Gamma pledges showed with Indian headdresses. But most of the clubs continued with the usual pledge outfits. EEEs wore big red bows; Chi Deltas dressed in daisy outfits and sashes; Ss and Betas sported tuxedos; Kappas wore slacks, white shirts, and maroon ties; and the Rho Sigs displayed wooden signs around their necks.

Quite simply, the week was hard. With the onset of the cold and flu to the campus, many were already sick before pledging even started. “The week was not fun, it was the hardest of my life,” said Chi Delta pledge Sarah Clements. “It made me appreciate small things like walking on the sidewalk or going to class alone!” Mandi Stiles, an EEE pledge, had a similar comment: “It is a very humbling experience when you have to look as bad as we did during that week. It makes you appreciate the little things we take for granted.”

The purpose of pledge week was not to torture the inductees, but to bring them together. “Pledge week - well, yeah, it’s been hard but it’s taught me how to rely on my friends and manage my time a lot better,” said Tri Chi pledge Karlyn Hughes. Sigma Alpha Sigma pledge Clint Rickett said, “The week was rough, but it drew us brothers closer together.”

A major aspect of pledging consisted of continuing traditions started by founding members. “The whole week was not meant to be fun, but it allowed us to be a part of the traditions that all Betas have been involved in throughout the years,” said Beta Beta pledge Chris Babb. From the EEE members wearing black on Friday to the Rho Sigma pledges dying their hair red, tradition carried on during pledge week.

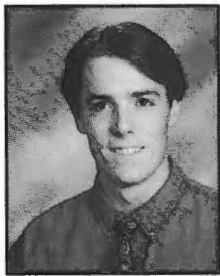
At the end of the week, pledges sat back and realized what all they had accomplished. “The week was trying both emotionally and physically, but it was all worth it because I have some of the best friends from it,” said Gamma Phi pledge Amanda Dinwiddle.

Greg Casey, a Kappa Chi pledge, pretty much summed it up. “I’m not saying it was all necessary, but I do believe it was a good experience.”

Small armies of  
oddly dressed  
pledges took over  
campus for a week  
of trials and  
growing

# Together

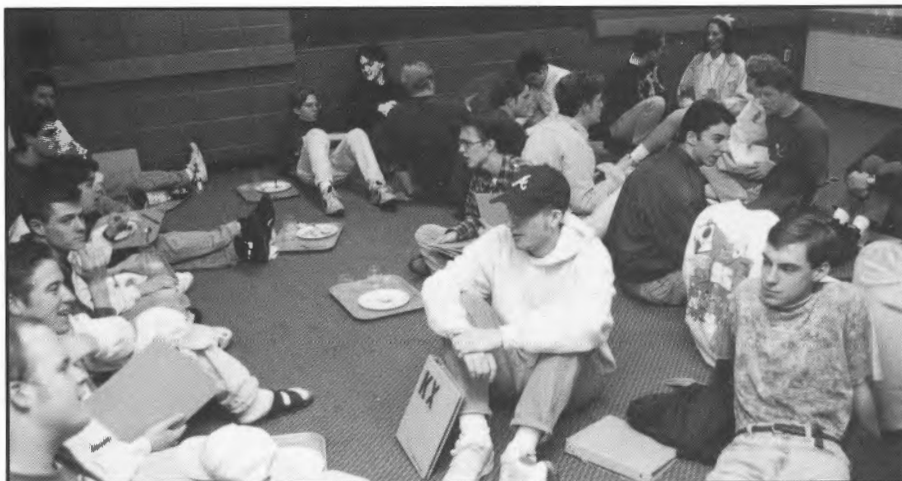
By: Danielle Carey



## Clint Rickett

*“The week was rough, but it drew us brothers closer together.”*

Kappa Chi pledges enjoy a little rest after their meal in the only place they could, the dining hall. The Kappa pledges wore their traditional maroon tie and blue slacks and were unique in the fact that they were the biggest pledge class in several years, with 31 pledges for the week. •photo by Jim Yates







**E**EE pledges Shannon Norwood and Maegan Burroughs, both freshmen, perform for a member before dinner. The EEE pledge class, as always, was easy to spot with the large red bows and bright red lipstick that were a constant reminder of their place that week. •photo by Jim Yates

**G**amma Phi pledges rest from a long day of pledging as they enjoy dinner at the cafeteria. Gamma pledges took on indian apparel and style with their headbands, feathers, and tomahawks that they constantly had on or with them. •photo by Jim Yates

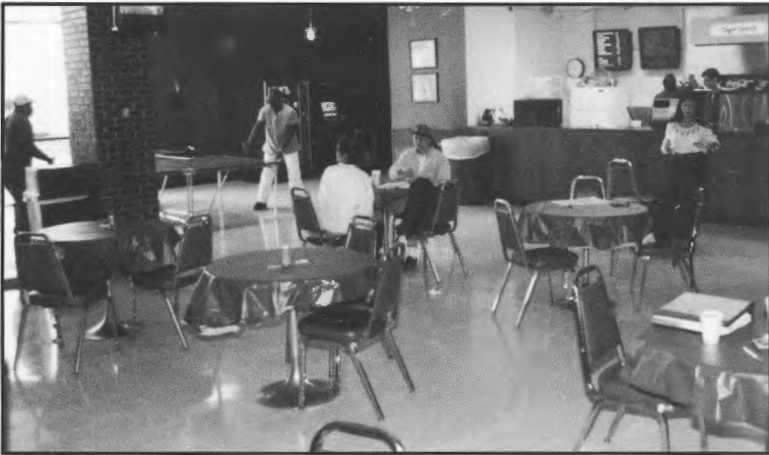


**B**en Darley, a sophomore Sigma Alpha Sigma pledge, leads his pledge brothers in a chant as they march together. Blue bowties, hand-held signs, and top hats marked these pledges apart on campus. •photo by Jim Yates





One of the Grill's employees waits on two students who utilize the new opportunities the Grill offered them. Whether you wanted a drink, a cookie, or a hamburger, the Grill was the place to go where you could get in and out fast with no cash. •photo by Sandra Scucchi



At the Tiger Grill students enjoy a game of ping pong, some television and the convenience of the food bar. Students were able to eat lunch in a hurry or just enjoy the friendly atmosphere with the new changes that had transformed the Grill into a popular place on campus. •photo by Sandra Scucchi



Students use the new facilities that were provided in the Grill, which offered a new place for students to eat and pass the time. This was introduced as an alternative way students could use their meal cards to purchase food. •photo by Sandra Scucchi



Stopped for a Coke before class. Won a serious game of ping-pong. Caught a score on ESPN. Crammed for a test. Met a friend for lunch. The disappearance of the gold tin foil wallpaper was not the only change at the Tiger Grill. Students actually utilized the space to eat, study, and hang out.

The new look of the Tiger Grill attracted many students to Evans Student Center. The atmosphere of college life came alive through the planning, decorating, and cooking. "We want the Tiger Grill to be an enjoyable place to eat and have your food," said Dean Bill Dixon, dean of students.

The combination of the modern appearance, the school paraphernalia, and the historical pictures shaped a new attitude at the Tiger Grill. The Grill was completed with new furniture, a television, partial carpeting, and ping-pong tables. The mural by Eli Hicks brought the atmosphere together to create a sense of tradition:

The appearance of the menu changed with the addition of breakfast food

and low fat items. However, the usual hamburger and fries menu was still available. Students were able to use their meal ticket for lunch, which added a new option. "It's easy to grab lunch, now that I can use my ID," said Angela Rodriguez.

The new alternatives at the Grill helped bring students back to Evans Student Center. "We are trying to make Evans an attractive place for students to spend time," said Dixon. Not only did students hang out at the grill but many could be found the new Tiger Den.

The Tiger Den was built for the students. Events that took place at Mitchell Hall could be found at the Den. Clubs and organizations used the new building. The Student Entertainment and Leisure Fund introduced the building to students with the traditional movie nights. "The Tiger Den is an updated facility everyone can enjoy," said Jason Bennett. "The reaction has been very positive."

The less formal surroundings created another place for students to relax. Student Senate's goal in naming the building was to promote a student atmosphere and school spirit. "We wanted to capture school spirit and make the students feel like it was their building," said Chad Gallager, vice president of the Student Senate.

The hard work to create a new look and a new building attracted many students. But the atmosphere caused by the students made the Tiger Grill and the Tiger Den successful. "It's exciting to see other students having fun," said Cortney Brown. "It gives everyone a little more spirit."

Mark Darr, a junior, orders at the snack bar in the Tiger Den. The Den was built in order to accommodate students' needs for a bigger and better entertainment facility. Most movies and many other activities were hosted in this new facility. *photo by Sandra Scucchi*

Renovations to the student center and the addition of the Tiger Den brought interesting change for

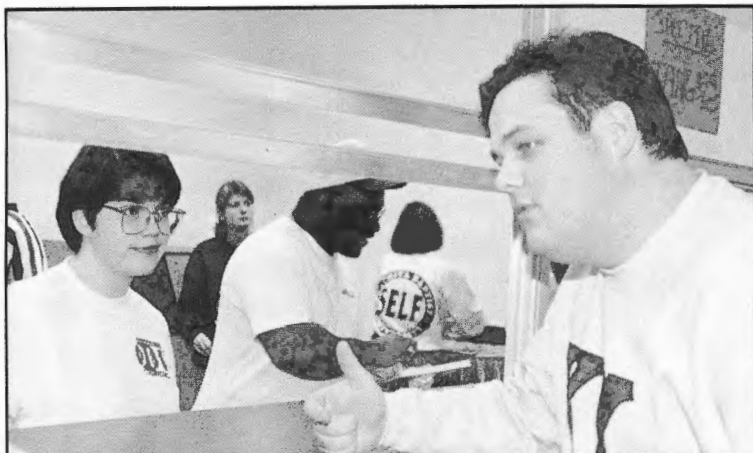
# Students

By: Marci Phillips



## Cortney Brown

*"It's exciting to see other students having fun. It gives everyone a little more spirit."*





Parties and appearances were first on the minds of rushees as they tried to make the right

# Decision

By: Rachel DeBusk



Krista Thomas

*"Rush was a good experience. The best thing about rush was getting to meet so many nice people."*

Christmas break ended, and the campus was flooded with students anxious to know what would happen in the weeks ahead. Name tags were put on, silence began, applications were taken, and a parade of neutral colored clothing filled the hands of girls moving back into their dorms. This only meant one thing—rush was approaching fast.

Rush week gave everyone the opportunity to become more informed about social clubs. Students were encouraged to keep an open mind, and choose a club which offered opportunities for enduring friendships. Jenny Othold said, "Through rush parties we got to see the clubs come together as sisters to show rushees what their club was about. We also got to hear individual testimonies on what the club meant to its members."

Men's rush included four nights of parties. The first two nights were drop-ins from 8:00 until 10:00 where anyone could attend. Men could attend the last two nights of parties by invitation only. At the parties, the rushees met members, listened to testimonies, and enjoyed food. Chris Babb said, "Rush

week gave us a chance to meet members of all four clubs and also gave us a chance to have some great food for four nights." Most of the rushees only went to the party of the club they wanted to join on the last night.

Women's rush was a little more complex. Name tags were handed out, and silence

began. Rushees and club members were not allowed to talk to each other until rush week was completely over—except of course, at the parties. Dr. Deborah Root said that the Panhellenic Council talked it over and decided that silence was still a good idea because it took the pressure off of the girls going through rush. With silence in effect, club members could not have access to the rushees by mail, telephone, or any other form of communication. It gave the rushees a chance to think through the whole process and decide for themselves what they wanted to do. Each women's club had a different theme and show every night. All rushees were allowed to attend every party on the first night but had to receive an invitation to return any other night. Invitations were slid underneath doors, and excited girls waited loudly each night to see which clubs invited them back. Terry Williams said, "I waited so long for my invitations. They never came, so I went to bed. The next morning I woke up, and it was like Santa Claus had come!" Like the men's parties, the women's social clubs had speakers and visitation time each night.

Most everyone had a positive experience from rush week whether they pledged or not. It gave everyone a chance to meet new people and see a good show. Krista Thomas said, "Rush was a good experience. Every club put on such a great show that the decision was very hard. The best thing about rush was getting to meet so many nice people."

By the last night of parties, almost everyone had their minds made up about whether they were going to pledge. Sarah Harmeyer concluded, "After going to two nights of parties, I knew for sure which club I wanted to join. I took a big risk going to only one party on the last night, but I am glad that I did."







Mandi Cosart and Allison Miles, both juniors, help entertain the crowds during one of the rush parties sponsored by the Tri Chi Women's Social Club. Tri Chis' theme for this night was the roaring '20s, in which they dressed up as "flappers" and did song and dance routines. *photo by Jim Yates*



Mark Darr and Ted Duncan, both juniors, hold the limbo pole as Jeff Edwards, a junior, tries to make it under without falling at one of the Kappa Chi rush parties. The Men of Kappa Chi used the new Tiger Den for most of their rush week activities. *photo by Sandra Scucchi*



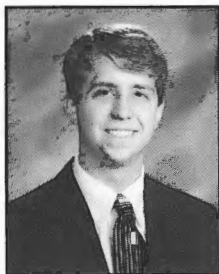
Chi Delta Women's Social Club perform their hearts out for the audience of prospective pledges during rush week. Dressed as clowns with the make-up and costumes to match, the Chi Deltas tried to persuade those in attendance that they were the best women's social club. *photo by Jim Yates*



*Movies, parties,  
and banquets  
filled the agenda  
of S.E.L.F. as they  
did their best to  
create a little*

# Diversion

*By: Marci Phillips*



## Jason Bennett

*"This year S.E.L.F. has tried to provide new entertaining activities that students can enjoy. We are always open to student ideas and will do what we can to meet their needs."*

The sun was brightly shining as the girls slid the heavy door of the van open to jump out. They ran as fast as possible to get a good seat for the S.E.L.F. movie. The Student Entertainment and Leisure Foundation provided a special afternoon show of Pocahontas in honor of the faculty and their children. "The faculty really appreciated it and the children had a good time," said President Jason Bennett.

The organization provided entertainment for the students, faculty and the community throughout the year. S.E.L.F. invited the members of the maintenance department to dinner. They organized an appreciation banquet to honor the department for their hard work. The department valued the time with each other and the students.

At the annual christmas party students took a break from preparing for exams to enjoy the holiday atmosphere. Students colored and cut paper to create cards for sick children in local hospitals. Some students made ornaments, built gingerbread houses, and visited with Santa. To celebrate the

warm weather S.E.L.F. organized a spring party. Members helped serve a picnic style dinner, made snow cones, and operated various carnival games.

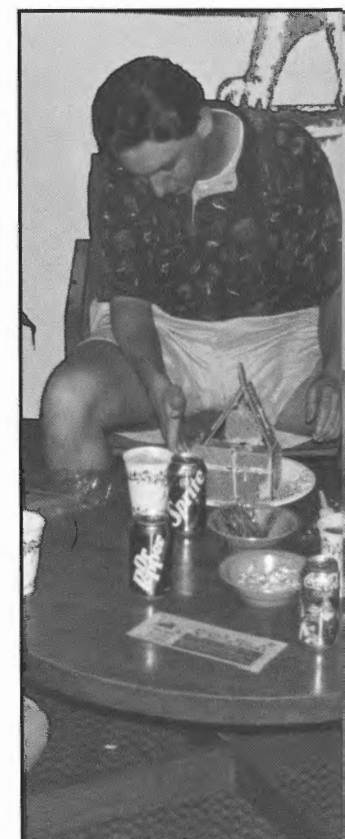
The Sunday night movies were a popular time to get out of the dorm and spend time with friends. "Apollo 13," "Pocahontas," and

"Untamed Heart" were a few of the big movies S.E.L.F. sponsored. Students enjoyed the shows and the new atmosphere of the newly built Tiger Den. "The selection of movies was better this year," said Danielle Carey. "I enjoyed the surrounding of the Tiger Den."

Students, faculty, and youth groups filled Jones Performing Arts Center for two different concerts as the members of S.E.L.F. worked behind the scenes. Geoff Moore and the Distance entertained the crowd as the special Christian Focus Week guest. Point of Grace was welcomed back by the students as they sang their new music.

After a successful membership drive S.E.L.F. increased to nearly 100 members. The number of students involved allowed the organization to improve activities on campus. "This year S.E.L.F. has tried to provide new entertaining activities that students can enjoy," said Bennett. "We are always open to student ideas and will do what we can to meet their needs."

S.E.L.F. provided fun and entertainment through various activities on campus. Students, faculty, and guests enjoyed the events sponsored by S.E.L.F. as the members dedicated their time. The organization's hard work created a successful year in service to others.







Guy Lyons, a senior, participates in the virtual reality presentation sponsored by S.E.L.F. and put on by Virtuality Enterprises. This event was a big hit on campus with students and staff alike. *photo by Jim Yates*



Students mingle and enjoy each other's company as they decorate windows with Christmas themes in Evans Student Center. S.E.L.F. annually sponsored this Christmas contest and party where students decorated and got into the spirit of the season. *photo by Guy Lyons*

Creating a masterpiece, junior Josh Hildebrand and sophomore Shawn Finney work on a gingerbread house at the Christmas party sponsored by S.E.L.F. Students liked being able to make decorations for the holiday season. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*



Searching for the perfect attire and playing a little role-reversal added pressure to the dating

# Challenge

By: Sandra Scucchi



## Dawn Webb

*"Getting all decked out for the T.W.I.R.P. nights was a lot of fun; however, having to ask a guy out was very hard and made me so nervous."*

When else could a student wear a Hawaiian shirt, a poodle skirt, pigtail braids with painted freckles on each cheek, or an elegant formal? T.W.I.R.P. week, of course. When it came time for the women to be required to pay, it seemed like everyone was dashing through their wardrobes searching for the perfect attire for each occasion.

SELF started the week by sponsoring a night at the movies in Mitchell Hall. "I think watching movies in Mitchell is neat because you can bring a pillow and sit in a pew," Tom Stickney said. SELF showed "While You Were Sleeping" starring Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman. "Movie night is exciting because the atmosphere is relaxing and the dress is casual," said Cortney Brown.

As Monday came, students dug through their wardrobes looking for Hawaiian shirts and straw hats for the BSU Beach Bash. "I loved the Beach Bash, despite the fact that I didn't win the best dressed contest," said Justin Hardin, who wore knickerbockers, a Hawaiian shirt, a lei, a hat, and nerd glasses.

The Beach Bash offered a barbecue dinner and a concert by The Silver Crickets. "It was so laid back and relaxed," said Nancy Day.

Checkered shirts and overalls were what most students found in their closets for the Gamma Phi's Sadie Hawkins night on Tuesday. "There was a good turn out. And surprisingly, everyone dressed up, even though

it was rainy and we had to move everything to SPEC," said Shea Morgan.

Sadie Hawkins consisted of many booths and many other games where the students could win prizes. After Sadie Hawkins, the Gammas sponsored a party at Skateland with live music by The Silver Crickets. "It was a lot of fun because everybody was definitely jamming," said Jeremy Irby.

On Wednesday, students flipped through their wardrobes in hopes of flashing back to the '50s for the EEE '50s Night. "The main thing was that I didn't want to look like everybody else in a poodle skirt," said Patti Blackard. "So I dressed up as Frenchi from Grease wearing a Pink Ladies jacket, a black skirt, a scarf around my neck, and the traditional saddle oxfords."

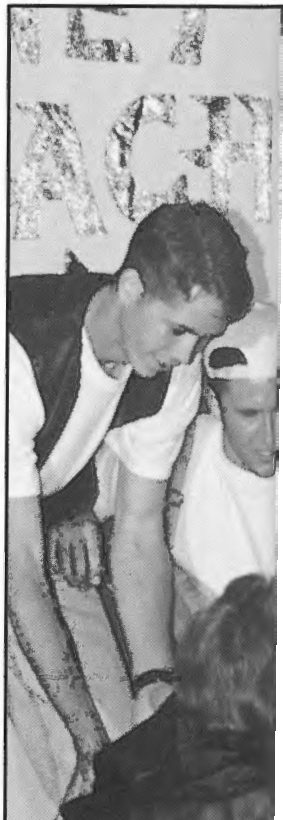
Couples were entertained by The Silver Crickets, skits, and crowd participation games. "I thought The Silver Crickets did an excellent job because their style of music helped bring us back to the '50s," said Brian Smith.

Students were asked to dress as various movie characters for Planet Ouachita which was sponsored by the Tri Chis on Thursday night. Couples who turned out for the show included Sarah Harmeyer and Ryan Brown as Princess Leia and Darth Vader, and Kathy Westbrook and Jeremy Irby as Nicole and O.J. Simpson.

With help from their beaus, the Tri Chis performed skits depicting commercials like the construction worker taking a Diet Coke break. They also acted out scenes from "Ace Ventura Pet Detective" and "Dumb and Dumber."

"All other T.W.I.R.P. nights are casual, but Harvest Moon is really fancy," said Heidi Warren. Harvest Moon, which was sponsored by the Chi Deltas, was held at Lake DeGray Lodge on Sunday evening. "Harvest Moon was fun because you get to see everyone dressed up," said Lisa Wortham.

T.W.I.R.P. week proved itself memorable according to Dawn Webb. "Getting all decked out for the T.W.I.R.P. nights was a lot of fun; however, having to ask a guy out was very hard and made me so nervous," said Webb. "I would rather the guys ask in the future."







**H**ead Resident Rosemary Chu reads the fortunes of two students at Gamma Phi's Sadie Hawkins night. The Gammas sponsored this night during T.W.I.R.P. Week which included games, food, and booths where students could be married and told their fortunes. *photo by Jim Yates*

**R**ocking to the sounds of the '50s, the Women of EEE have a groovy time at their T.W.I.R.P. night. With "HappEEE Days" as their theme, the EEEs wore poodle skirts and the dates drank shakes as they enjoyed the entertainment. *photo by Carol Price*



**"Planet Ouachita"** was the theme for the Tri Chi Women's Social Club's T.W.I.R.P. night. The Tri Chis focused on Hollywood and all its glamour and famous movie stars to entertain the crowds. *photo by Jim Yates*



With a full tank of gas and a map in hand, students loaded up and headed out for the

# Highway

By: Jessica Osborne



## Jennie McClain

"I never thought we would even make it out of the parking lot."

Gas, oil, and mileage were watched carefully by students on long trips. Traveling by car was a relatively inexpensive way for students to get from one point to the other with their friends. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*

The smell of exhaust fumes and the sound of seat belts buckling and trunks slamming could be heard as the car's engine was started. Last minute decisions and quick packing are familiar to all travelers. For many students, these are normal beginnings for road trips.

Although most students planned on taking trips weeks in advance, there were several individuals that preferred to be spontaneous when it came to traveling. Senior Bruce Cullom and junior Russ Elrod decided after midnight one Thursday night to go to Austin, Texas. Their trip took them to hear several club bands perform. Cullom said, "We knew that Austin was considered the live music capital, and so we just hopped in the car and hung out down there for three days. We only went for the music."

Not all people were as quick to decide what they wanted to do or when they wanted to do it. Freshmen Jennie McClain, Jennifer McSpadden, Allison Trumble, and Robert Sproles, another group of travelers, were going to Waco, Texas, to visit some friends of theirs from various colleges. They planned to

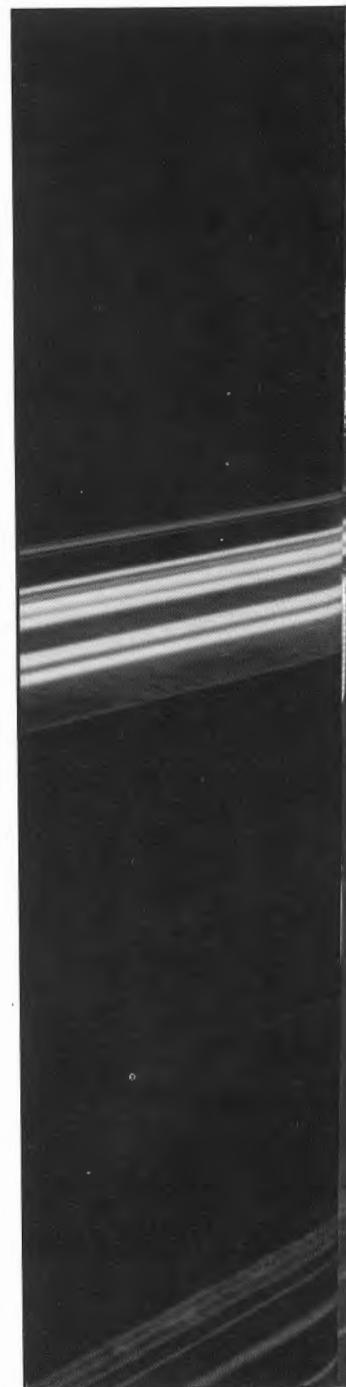
leave at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, but actually departed the campus an hour later. "I never thought we would even make it out of the parking lot. Then we had to make frequent stops along the way for people to use the restrooms. It was the longest trip I've ever taken," said McClain. Their weekend

adventure turned out great and all were satisfied with the trip. Sproles said, "My only complaint about the trip was that the CD player wouldn't work. Good music makes a good trip."

Trips like these and many more were taken throughout the year. The freedom to choose when and where to go were just a part of the fun. All students needed a way to escape the daily grind of college life. Road trips were just one way students found this release. Family trips did not compare with the excitement and memories created by students on their journeys. No matter what the destination, road trips were considered to be the highlight of college life and the more unique the trips was, the more unique and interesting the story about it was. Freshman Marjorie Thompson said, "Road trips give us a chance to just get away and get crazy. It is always fun to just...go! It is just one big adventure."



A banner hangs from a lightpole at the entrance to Historic Sixth Street in Austin, Texas. Students were attracted to cities in states from Texas to Louisiana and from Oklahoma to Tennessee. Music, drama, good food, and bright lights often were magnets that most students were drawn to. *photo by Jim Yates*







**B**right lights and adventure often attract students to the endless stretches of highway that can lead anywhere they wish to go. Students often travel great distances to reach their desired destinations. *photo by Jim Yates*

**S**ome of the staples for a road trip include snacks, good music, and lots of make-up reading. If things weren't too crowded or rushed, the trip was a great experience and adventure for students. *photo by Jim Yates*



Whether working on a class project or simply giving of their time, students found ways of

Quietly he sat swinging his feet as his eyes circled the room. Green streamers and balloons covered the walls. Party hats were stacked on the table. He did not touch anything as he anticipated the arrival of the hosts of the St. Patrick's Day Party. Members of Dr. Steve Phillips' Small Group Processes class reached beyond the boundaries of the classroom as they hosted a party in honor of the men and women at Group Living, Inc. Group Living housed mentally disabled men and women.

The groups within the class worked together as they organized music for dancing, decorated the room, and coordinated the agenda for the night. In addition to the class project, the individual groups served in other ways such as painting and decorating rooms at a local home for abused women and children. Another group of the class took time out for the children at Happyland Day Care. The children at the daycare came from low-income families. The group planned special activities before arriving to spend time with the children. "We planned games and a nature walk for the children," said Julie Wilson. "But we

changed plans because they just needed us to play with them."

The Backyard Bible Club ministry of the Baptist Student Union also spent time with many children in the community. Every other Tuesday afternoon the members of the ministry team left the comforts of campus to

work with children at the local housing authority, Carpenter Hills. The members of the team played group games, made crafts, and talked about their faith in God with the children. "The kids are starved for love," said ministry leader Emily Higgins. "It's very exciting because we can share our love with them." Several children were involved in the Backyard Bible Club because the team cared about them.

Phi Beta Lambda sponsored a Bowl-a-thon to raise money for Arkansas Children's Hospital. Each club member asked for sponsors to support their game. They played two games and earned money for each pin that was not left standing. In addition to the night of bowling, the club raised more money at the Honeycomb restaurant. The restaurant sponsored a college coffee house and gave their tips to Phi Beta Lambda. The club gave a large donation to further the healthcare of children around the state.

Students in various organizations donated time and energy to help the community. Despite the hectic schedules of college life, the organizations created special memories for troubled people. The projects were successful because students reached beyond their comfort zone and touched many lives.

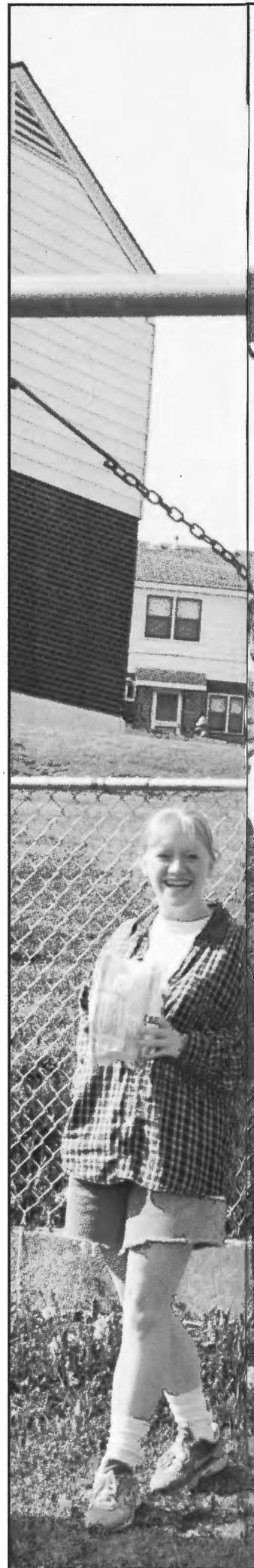
# Serving

By: Marci Phillips



## Emily Higgins

*"It's very exciting because we can share our love with them."*







Freshman Jenni McKissack looks on as three children enjoy playing at the playground after a Backyard Bible Club meeting. McKissack and others worked constantly with children in the community that were involved in their program. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*

Members of Student Senate, various social clubs, and S.E.L.F. serve children of the community at the annual Christmas Party sponsored by S.E.L.F. and supported by other organizations. This kind of community service helped many students get involved through their various outlets and help others. *photo by Carol Price*



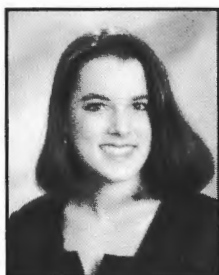
Junior Bryan Manley gives a ride to two children in the Big Brother program. Children in and around Arkadelphia were able to benefit from this program and others like it that gave them hope and something to look forward to. *photo by Sandra Scucchi*



Old friends, new faces and great entertainment made the 30 year anniversary of Miss OBU

# Memorable

By: Christina Lance



## Merideth Arnn

*"I set this goal several months before the pageant and have worked hard to achieve it. I praise the Lord for providing me this opportunity."*

After two and a half hours of entertainment, excitement, and anticipation, junior Merideth Arnn was crowned Miss OBU 1996. The pageant, which was sponsored by the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, marked the 30th year of pageantry for the University.

Arnn, representing the EEE Women's Social Club, competed along with 12 other contestants for the title. At the end of the competition, Arnn was crowned by the reigning Miss Arkansas Paula Montgomery; Miss OBU 1995 Ashley Arrington; and University President Dr. Ben Elrod.

Arnn won the talent portion with her rendition of "How Could I Ever Know?" from the Broadway musical, *The Secret Garden*. An incredible impact was also made with her critical issue: the importance of role models in society. Arnn said, "I believe it is very important for young people to have positive mentors, not the media type, but day-to-day 'stars' in their lives who take an interest."

Arnn, a 20-year-old choral music education major from Benton, was also involved in the EEE Women's Social Club, Pure Heart contemporary Christian music group, and the Ouachita Singers.

Arnn will represent her school in the Miss Arkansas pageant June 19-22 in Hot Springs. "I set this goal several months before the pageant and have worked hard to achieve it,"

Arnn said. "I praise the Lord for providing me this opportunity."

Arnn's court also included: Missy Nobles of Hot Springs, a freshman pre-nursing major, chosen as first runner-up and sponsored by Blue Key National Honor Fraternity; Erin Crumley of Denver, Colorado, a junior elementary education major, chosen as second runner-up and sponsored by Kappa Chi Men's Social Club; Sarah Stanley of Warren, a sophomore choral music major, chosen as third runner-up and sponsored by SELF; and Alicen Laws of Mabelvale, a sophomore Christian counseling major chosen as fourth runner-up and sponsored by the 1996 Tri Chi pledge class.

To top things off, 17 former title holders returned for the 30th anniversary with each one offering a word of wisdom and a funny story. The evening was complete. The group performed after intermission and shared of their lives both past and present.

The 30th was definitely a charm. With the return of 17 former Miss OBUs, a spectacular evening of entertainment, and the crowning of Miss OBU 1996, the pageant proved to be unforgettable.

Miss OBU Court of Honor performs for the crowd during the pageant. The Court of Honor put on acts between the phases so as to allow time for the contestants to change and get ready. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*







**J**unior Merideth Arnn smiles warmly toward the crowd after being crowned as the 1996 Miss OBU. Arnn was one of a dozen contenders for the sought-after crown that marked the 30th anniversary of the pageant. •photo by Jonathan Henderson



**M**erideth Arnn performs for the crowd in attendance at the 30th annual Miss OBU pageant. Arnn sang "How Could I Ever Know?" from the Broadway musical *The Secret Garden* for her talent portion of the show. •photo by Amy Morton



**T**he Queen and her court stand together after the ceremonies along with the reigning Miss Arkansas, Paula Montgomery. They are: Sarah Stanley, third runner-up and Miss Congeniality; Missy Nobles, first runner-up; Merideth Arnn, Miss OBU; Paula Montgomery, Miss Arkansas; Erin Crumley, second runner-up; and Alicen Laws, fourth runner-up. •photo by Jonathan Henderson



**G**uy Lyons, a senior, prepares to capture the next good shot at a Tiger basketball game. Along with having a family, Lyons had to manage his time between his job with the University's photography department and his school work. •photo by Sandra Scucchi



**C**atasha McDaniel, a sophomore, helps her daughter up the steps. Being a parent and a student was often difficult, but many found it rewarding. •photo by Guy Lyons



**S**haron Cosh, a senior, and Ruth-Anne Mwase, a freshman, discuss a piece of artwork. Finding time to visit with classmates was difficult for students like Cosh and Mwase who both had children at home. •photo by Guy Lyons

**B**art Brockway, a senior, comforts his daughter in the hospital. Students with families sometimes found themselves in situations beyond their control where studies had to be temporarily put aside. •photo by Guy Lyons







Balancing babies,  
books, and many  
other burdens,  
non-traditional  
students have a  
tough road to



The campus was filled with many students fresh out of high school, energetic, young, and full of excitement and anticipation. Yet amid the crowd of energy stood another type of student. Anyone could spot them. They were older, and had less energy. Yes, they were the non-traditional students. They had experienced just enough of life's let-downs and hum-drum days to forsake their excitement. They knew "college life" would take on new meaning. And this produced fear.

College years would not be filled with 'late night' study sessions in the dorm. Football games, Homecoming, social clubs, mission trips, and field trips would be absent from the 'best years of their life.'

Tauna Woodruff was unable to continue her education in one segment of time, and circumstances found her returning to school. "I had an overwhelming feeling that I needed to get my degree," said Woodruff. She had more responsibilities, different points of view, and was more focused on her goals. That was typical of the non-traditional student. No longer could life be viewed

from simply their own perspective.

Guy Lyons, a 28-year-old, found himself struggling to keep a balance of his many priorities. Lyons said that it was real important that his wife feel a part of the campus community. But coming to school late in life did not hinder Lyons. "It's helped

me to better formulate what I want to do with my life," said Lyons. That seemed to be the general consensus.

The older student seemed to be more focused. However, their source of strength had to be other than a peer group. For Sharon Cosh, an adult woman with a husband and five girls, her family was her support system. "It's had to be a team effort. I couldn't have done this without my family," said Cosh. She realized that she could not overcome her trying times without that sense of support she received.

For some non-traditional students their years in college were the loneliest of their life. This was particularly true of older women who did not yet have a family. Although they did not have the extra responsibility that came with a family, they also did not have a place to feel completely secure.

However, even forsaking all of the things that the youth considered important to an education, the non-traditional student reached the other side of the educational process and still managed to be and feel trained and prepared for the 21st century work force.

# Travel

By: Sheri Montgomery



## Sharon Cosh

*"It's had to be a team effort. I  
couldn't have done this  
without my family."*