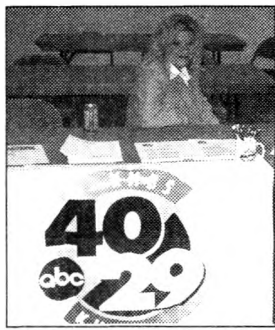


# LION'S PRINT

WESTARK COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER ORGANIZATION • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 1 • FEBRUARY 2, 2001

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## NEWS

Westark hosts event for over two hundred Journalism students, *see page 4.*

## FEATURES

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## STUDENT LIFE

Student Advisory Council sponsored blood drive, *see story on page 7.*

## SPORTS

Defense dominates and Westark wins, *see stories on page 8.*



Along with the merger, the new union is expected to be completed in the fall. *Photo by Michelle Holloway*

# MERGER

## Reaches Second Stage

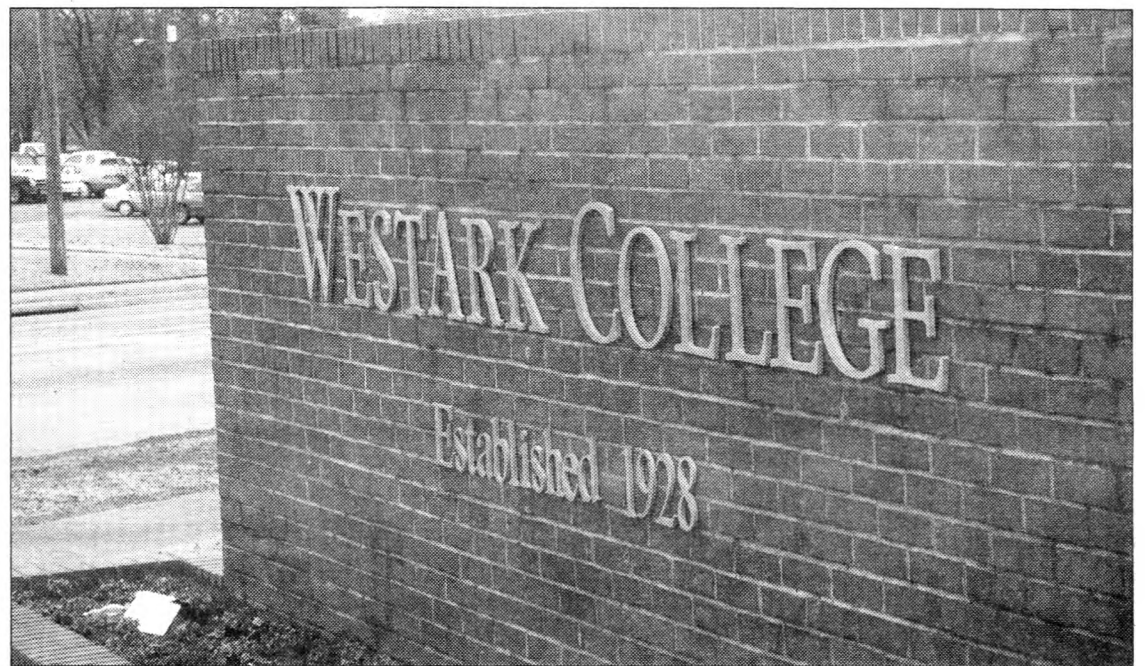
Steve Clark  
News Editor

Westark College's plan to merge with the University of Arkansas system has passed the first stage of the process, and it is involved in implementing stage two. Stage one was the agreement of both institutions to pursue the merger. Westark's Board of Trustees voted to do so on Nov. 5, and the university's board voted in agreement on Dec. 15. Both votes were unanimous.

Stage two, according to Mary Beth Sudduth, executive vice president of Westark College, is to draft and enact legislation to allow the merger to occur.

"We are having the attorneys look at the rough draft now," Sudduth said. "Once we have the final draft, we will ask the state legislators to sponsor the bill's introduction into the Arkansas General Assembly, and then we will concentrate on getting it passed. The third stage will be to allow the citizens of Sebastian County to vote on the legislation."

A positive voter response will accomplish two major things. First, it will allow the dissolution of the Westark Community College district and its corresponding millage tax, and the reenactment of a new district supported by an equivalent or greater millage tax, or possibly a sales and use tax. Secondly, it will establish a state law allowing any community college that wants to merge with another



This sign may soon see a name change after the merger is official with the U of A system. *Photo by James Day.*

institution a legal process by which that could occur. There is currently no such state law. This will be groundbreaking legislation.

"The bill will not have Westark's name attached to it," Sudduth said, "but it will probably be known as the Westark bill. The legislation will apply to the entire state."

Assuming voter approval of the legislation, the merger will commence within 30 days after the election. A special election will be necessary because the agreement stipulates that the merger can only take place if both the legislation is enacted and the election occur before Jan. 1, 2002.

"We haven't set any dates because we're concentrating on

getting the legislation, and this is not official, but it could conceivably be done by the fall semester. If we can get the legislation passed in the spring and have the election in the summer, the merger could be complete by next fall. It will be an exciting fall. The merger, the new union building and the new arena could all be finished by October," Sudduth said.

Addressing concerns that have been expressed in the Times Record's "How You See It" column, Sudduth referred to a letter from Judge Jim Spears that was printed on Jan. 19. His letter discussed, among other issues, the refinancing of Westark's outstanding bonded indebtedness, which taxing method might be better, local

control, and the benefits gained by a merger, such as: improved prestige, increased degree offerings, the attractiveness of a university community to investing businesses and community development.

"I thought he stated it very well," Sudduth said.

Responding to a question about the concern that the merger will bring about a loss of local control of the college, Sudduth reminds us that the local Board has very little control anyway.

"Everything we do is mandated by state law, the positions we can fill and how much we can pay those positions. The property is considered property of the state. We will lose local

*See Merger, Page 3.*

# Voting in America: Folk Myth Dies Hard

Steve Clark  
News Editor



For Westark and University Center students, one of the great challenges of the college experience is to come to grips with the changing nature of what is held to constitute truth. For example, our experience with the 2000 presidential election has disproved once and for all time, the cherished notion that an individual's single vote could possibly decide the outcome. Rarely does such a time-honored institution suffer so shameful an exposure, and we have all witnessed a major change in the way a respected jewel of truth must be viewed. The Constitutionally guaranteed right to vote is not a guarantee that a vote will be counted. Even the Electoral College is vulnerable to savagery by closed-minded partisan authorities. "Every vote counts" as an American icon of an ideal has been tested, and it has failed. It has had its day in court and been found guilty of perjury.

"One-person, one-vote" and its mythical application actually does work, not for the voting masses, but for the ultimately powerful only. The United States Supreme Court or

Congress is where one vote can make a difference. For us, the people, it is a fairy tale, and should be recognized as such. The concept was put in place to placate us, to keep us blissful in the belief that we wield an enormous power. Now we know better.

If an election is strongly one-sided, one person who decides to vote or not to vote will not and cannot be the key "one vote" that determines the outcome. This is the situation all of us alive today have observed. We have known no other experience, until now. The 100,000,000 people who do not vote – ever – impact an election only in a passive, indirect backdoor manner. However, if an election is worthy of challenge, and recounts are demanded, and the returns are really, really close in a final state whose electoral votes will decide the victor, the individual's vote, as we have seen, will be put aside, based on a partisan political structure of power, depending on which party is in the position to obstruct justice. This time, denying problems with voting machines and creating problems with the recounting process, the injustice was perpetrated by the Republicans. Ronald Reagan's appointees to the U.S. Supreme Court have, in effect, appointed George W. Bush to be President, contradicting the apparent will of the people.

The U.S. Supreme Court has flaunted its power to do whatever it damn

well pleases. Its interference with and stoppage of the Florida court-ordered recount on Dec. 9, brashly, vainly, vulgarly and unnecessarily paraded its muscular contouring to overpower everyone, even four members of its own body. The U.S. Supreme Court could have refrained from such a pornographic display and would have avoided this criticism, regardless of the final outcome. Our judicial branch has demonstrated an opposite ideological makeup from the country which edged out George W. Bush in favor of Al Gore. Gore was edged out in favor of Bush by the U.S. Supreme Court. Still a very close split, and one we, as Americans must accept, simply because no other body of higher authority can be approached with appeal. Congressional involvement would yield the same results because it too, is representational of, and stands against the executive opinion of the nation.

When an election stands less than 200 votes apart, and over 60,000 votes are discounted, and that without reason other than to prevent the knowledge of where those votes might finally posit, the responsible body gathers to itself much deserved criticism.

The Electoral College's power-balancing quality to motivate candidates to campaign in small states as well as large states has always had my support. However, in the light of the recent experience, reexamination of the issue

may be in order. If the U.S. Supreme Court can award – and it can – the presidency to the party of its choice, future candidates may find it beneficial to forego campaigning in any except the twenty largest states.

Voting is important. I strongly urge 100% of us to do so. We need and should want the statistical information for the positions of all 200 million potential democratic process participants. But the neglectful, lazy and irresponsible position of not voting for no good reason should eventually become intolerable to the nation's conscience.

Even were that to happen, the corpse of the one-man-one-vote-every-vote-counts folklore is beyond resurrection. The fallacy has been discovered. We need to get over it, stop lying to our children and ourselves, correct the flaws in our voting processes and machines, and to strive to raise the social awareness quotient of our citizenry to the point that everyone, not merely the minority, is represented. This would take a huge step toward ensuring that this most important of our privileges not be held in contempt.

Please never fail to exercise the right so few on Earth have. It's fun, it's educational and it's important. And also, as students on the cusp of destiny, please keep your minds open to new ideas with a mental side glance toward commonly accepted truths. The sun no longer revolves around the Earth.

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The Lion's Print, a bi-weekly Westark College newspaper, is a volunteer student organization. Our purpose is to be an open forum for students to share their ideas, experiences, and grievances with the campus and community. The Newspaper Advisory Board ensures freedom of this press and fairness of its practicing policies. Staff members are compensated for their printed contributions.

### Letters to the Editor Policy:

We welcome all letters from students and faculty at a maximum of 150 words. Letters must include name, major, faculty occupation in order to be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, and accuracy.

## UA Merger cont.

governing authority. The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas governs all of the institutions in its system. The local board will make strong advisory recommendations. President (Alan) Sugg has assured us that they will respect the recommendations of the advisory board. I don't think they will do anything to fly in the face of what the advisory board wants. I believe they will have a strong voice in the programs and policies of the new University of Arkansas in Fort Smith. We will be on an equal footing with Fayetteville. To be honest, I can't think of a down side to the merger," Sudduth said.

The change in the college will create new administrative titles, such as Chancellor Stubblefield, etc., but no personnel changes are planned.

Wayne Atchley, digital design major, echoed Vice President Sudduth's viewpoint.

"The sooner the better, as far as I'm concerned," Atchley said. "I think this merger is the best thing to happen to Fort

Smith in years and years. I want this thing to happen. Westark has a significant percentage of non traditional students who are place-bound for one reason or another – family, job, disability, whatever it may be, they're here. The University Center is a tremendous asset, but it doesn't address the goals of these place-bound nontraditional students. If we become part of the University of Arkansas system, I feel strongly that our bachelor programs are going to expand, hopefully at a rapid rate", Atchley added.

Rebekah Garner, a freshman student pursuing a degree in early childhood development, would like to see the merger increase the possibility for a dormitory system.

"I think it would be neat if we would become the University of Arkansas. Now, I have to find an apartment, and I think they should have dorms."

A copy of the merger agreement is available on Pipeline at [www.westark.edu](http://www.westark.edu).

## Westark Security Shows Progress

**Eric Black**  
Editor

Recent developments should improve security on the Westark College campus.

According to Paul Neissl, assistant director of plant operations, the alleviation of traffic hazards, along with the planned installation of call boxes in the parking areas and the addition of more qualified personnel are among the efforts to strengthen campus safety.

Westark College Dept. of Public Safety is administered by the Physical Plant and currently employs one full-time security coordinator, one full-time Higher Education officer, and seven part-time security officers.

One of the primary concerns for Westark security has been the traffic and the danger it imposes for students crossing Grand avenue. The tunnel connecting the parking lot to campus was constructed to address the jaywalking problem.

Since the seclusion of the tunnel could potentially create an environment for assault or other criminal activity, the Westark College Physical Plant implemented cer-

tain safety measures earlier last year. Among the improvements were the installation of security mirrors designed to increase visibility, improved lighting, and a coat of white paint.

"It is an area I've asked security to patrol more often for safety reasons," Neissl said. As a result of these changes, Neissl estimated that 70 to 80 percent of students and faculty now use the tunnel.

Currently in the planning stages, Neissl explained that Westark is looking into installing call boxes in the outer parking lots for added safety. The call boxes would allow a person in an emergency situation to be linked directly to security.

"We're looking into several different versions," Neissl said. "It has to be ADA compliant, durable, and the best unit for the money."

By dialing ext. 7140 you will be in immediate radio contact with the officer on duty. Non-emergency security, parking problems, or safety concerns can be directed to the Westark College Physical Plant at 788-7172.

## Report Says High School Students are Unprepared for College

Melissa Thrailkill  
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — High school students are entering college unprepared and undereducated, according to a study released Wednesday.

The report, written by a commission appointed by the U.S. Department of Education, says institutions of higher education and secondary schools must work together to assure a higher success rate among college students.

"The Lost Opportunity of the Senior Year: Finding a Better Way" states that almost half of all high school students "are uneducated or mis-educated" and that those anticipating college look at their senior year as a "farewell tour of adolescence."

The National Commission on the High School Senior Year, formed last summer by the Department of Education, states in the report that institutions of higher education and K-12 schools don't properly align academic content, admission procedures or expectations for students.

As a result, the report concludes, new college students are more likely to fail or give up.

Ray Grasshoff, spokesperson for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said Texas' newly developed higher education plan, "Closing the Gaps By 2015," sets out programs to help alleviate this problem.

The goal of the plan is to make the Recommended High School Program, which consists of college preparatory courses, the

standard curriculum in high schools and make it a prerequisite for admission into the state's public universities by 2008.

"[It will] automatically get more students taking courses they need for college, and if they don't go into college, then for the work force," Grasshoff said.

A nationwide teacher shortage is one hurdle schools will have to clear in order to institute better college preparation programs, said Grasshoff and Debbie Ratcliffe, a Texas Education Agency Catch-22 for us."

The University of Texas System has also realized the importance of communicating with secondary schools, said Felipe Alanis, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. The System has developed two programs to work on this relationship.

Project Texas Professional Development Online is a Web-based course designed to help high school Algebra I teachers prepare students for college-level math.

Another program, which Alanis says is in its very early stages, would take data from high schools and link it with universities, giving universities the opportunity to evaluate which high school classes proved effective in preparing students for college.

"We would know what programs or courses are being successful for high school students," he said.

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# Al Gore Finds Temporary Occupation

## Covering National Affairs in the Information Age

Ben Casselman  
Columbia Daily Spectator (Columbia U.)

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK –

Columbia University will soon be home to Professor Al Gore.

The former vice president will be taking a position as a visiting professor at the Columbia School of Journalism, where he will teach a seminar called Covering National Affairs in the Information Age with the Fred Friendly Professor of Media and Society Richard Wald and Assistant Professor and former New York Times staff writer Craig Wolff.

Gore, who worked as a reporter for the Tennessean from 1973 to 1976 before entering politics will teach his first class on Feb. 6. According to the Associated Press, he will lecture between six to eight times this semester and may return for a second semester.

"It's a wonderful thing and a wonderful opportunity for Columbia," said Associate Dean of the Journalism School Evan Cornog on Wednesday.

Efforts to reach the Dean of the Journalism School Wednesday night were unsuccessful.

Gore will also teach classes at Middle Tennessee State and Fisk University while working on a book, according to Thursday's New York Times. Columbia did not officially announce Gore's plans Wednesday because he had planned to make the

announcement himself in Tennessee Thursday.

Neither Wolff nor Wald, who is also the Chairman of the Spectator's Board of Trustees, had been told about Gore's plans until late Wednesday. After the news was announced on ABC News and other national press sources, the Journalism school sent its students an announcement via e-mail.

Wald said he was "just happy" to hear the news.

"I'm just ecstatic for the students," Wolff said. "I think this is what a university is all about."

Wald, former Senior Vice President of ABC, was similarly excited by the news.

"It'll be wonderful for the students," Wolf said.

Sandy Berger, Former National Security Adviser in the Clinton administration, said Wednesday night that he did not know why Gore chose to take a position at Columbia, but he cited Gore's "longstanding interest in journalism" as a possible reason for the decision.

"I think he's going to bring a unique perspective because he's not only been a journalist but also a participant," Berger said. "He's seen newsmaking from both sides of the typewriters."

Gore took a seminar on investigative reporting at the Journalism School in the early 1970s at the same time as Newsweek Chief Political Correspondent and Senior Editor

Howard Fineman was a student at the school.

Fineman said that he did not know Gore when he was at the Journalism School, but called the appointment "a coup for Columbia."

According to Fineman, Gore has always maintained his interest in both journalism and academia, so his decision seems a logical one. He pointed out that Gore wrote his senior thesis at Harvard University on the media's role in the 1960 presidential campaign, and that said Gore's background as a reporter gives him an important perspective.

Fineman said he has often seen Gore "biting his tongue [while] being interviewed. He seemed to be restraining his disdain for the stupidity of our questions." Fineman said that he expects Gore to "rip apart everything I've ever written about him."

The course Gore will help teach — which already existed and already has students registered — covers national news reporting, from major political issues to smaller, more personal topics related to national news. Wald said Gore would be a "resource" who knows news from both sides and is "one of the world's great experts ... on what interests the nation."

Wald said he hoped to modify the course's syllabus to take advantage of Gore's presence, focusing more on public policy issues in which Gore is an expert.

Wolff agreed that Gore would help

the students.

"With Al Gore you get both the power of his presence and a guy who is incredibly intelligent," Wolff said. "I can't think of anyone who understands government and the process better."

Journalism student Jeff Goldfarb called the announcement "very exciting," and said it showed that "this school wants to feed on issues of the day."

Because Gore made his name in politics and not journalism, Goldfarb said there "will be discussion about whether [Gore] should be a professor here." But Goldfarb said he thought the appointment was appropriate because Gore comes out of a policy position, not a public relations one.

"Vice President Gore doesn't bring that baggage with him," Goldfarb said. "I think it will be fun to have his background as a professor."

Journalism Professor Sreenath Sreenivasan described the scene in the Journalism school after the announcement was made.

"The buzz around here is amazing," Sreenivasan said. "They want to know how to get into the class. The same thing happened with [George] Stephanopoulos and David Dinkins, only that wasn't the J-School."

—Rob Saliterman and Jamie Hodari contributed to this report.

## Society for Collegiate Journalist Host Media Day

Over 200 students gathered together at Westark on Jan. 18, 2001, to take part in the fourth annual Media Day.

Media Day was hosted on campus by the Westark Journalism Department and the Society for Collegiate Journalist. It was aimed toward area high school and junior high students who are members of their school's publication and may be looking forward to a career in media.

According to journalism instructor and director of Media Day Lori Norin, this day had several different purposes. One was to get schools to come and compete. This might have been the only chance for some schools. Students also learned more about the field of Journalism. It was also a chance to see the progress of local schools. Westark used this event to recruit students too.

The day started at 8:30 a.m., in Breedlove



**Amber Mader, ??? major and editor of the Westark yearbook, talked to high school students interested about Westark publications at Media Day. Photo by James Day.**

Auditorium. From there students went to four sessions hosted by 16 to 20 different professional speakers educating the students

on an assortment of different topics from advertising to radio communication.

"I was very relieved that everything ran so well. The speakers really seemed to enjoy talking to the students. The students also looked like they had a great time," Journalism major and Media Day organizer, Amy Tabor said.

Along with the different speakers, there was a mail-in and on-site competition. The mail-in competition had 20-30 categories in which students could compete in. The on-site competitions, newswriting and advertising, took place that day.

There was an awards ceremony after lunch, where there were around 300 certificates given to the best of each category. Other major awards were Advisor-of-the-Year, Journalist-of-the-Year, Outstanding Newspaper, and Outstanding Yearbook.

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## Winter Storms Through Westark Campus

Steve Clark  
News Editor

Severe ice storms, snow and sleet left broken trees, power outages and picturesque ice sculptures in their wake across the Westark College campus during the Christmas break.

Damage to trees was visible in every direction. Larger trees suffered the most breakage, while small, younger trees, mostly located around the Campus Green in the shadow of the Bell Tower, were generally bowed over and bent downward almost to the ground. In contrast to these odd sights, many medium sized trees remained upright. Also, the water fountains and hedges were encrusted with ice shells.

Maintenance crews cleared the sidewalks, and others concentrated on clearing the fallen limbs. Westark custodian, Larry Ross helped out with clean up efforts.

"The maintenance crew's first priority is to make the sidewalks safe for walking,"

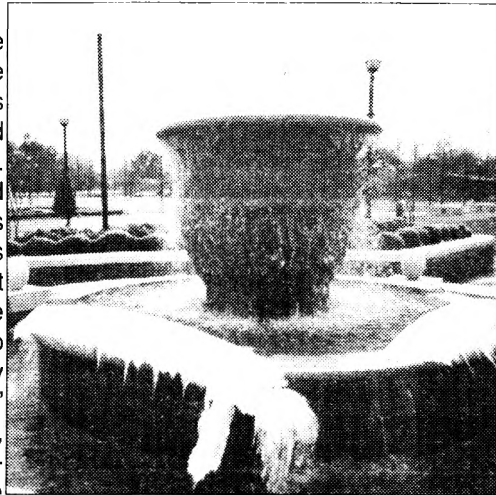
Ross said.

Westark Vice President for Finance and Campus Services Jim Hurst assessed damage to the campus.

"We have no solid damage estimates yet," Hurst said. "It's too early. But it appears we have completely lost 20 to 25 trees, mainly some of the pines." According to Hurst, only college personnel would be involved with tree and brush cleanup.

Some trees would need someone to actually climb into them to assess whether they could be saved.

On New Year's Eve, the college got covered again, this time with a blanket of snow. Tree damage along 49th Street on the west side of Westark College seemed to be untouched, and in the middle of Alabama Street a light pole between 48th and 49th Streets rested at a 45 degree angle on a clump of trees. All



Fountain from Bell Tower Plaza frozen over Christmas break. Photo by Steve Clark

the maintenance crew's work from last week had been covered over again.

The tower dome was encrusted in white about one-half the way down its hemisphere. Most, but not all, of the debris around the front of Boreham Library and Fullerton Union had been removed. Miniature glaciers dotted the property. It is remarkable how devastation and beauty are sometimes the same thing.

## Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

**Note from the News Editor, Steve Clark, regarding the individuals involved in the clean up of the ice storm's damage:**

Thanks are due from the college administration, staff, faculty, students and indeed the community for services rendered under difficult circumstances by the following dedicated, hard working men:

Paul Neissl, Mac Fitzpatrick, Marty Brassfield, Steve Hayes, Danny Thomas, Larry Ross, William Connor, Bill Casey, Eddie Stokes, Ricky Riddle, Jon Welnitz, Jerry Street, Lucius Corbett, Freddie Cruz, Steve Hobbs, Corky Euper, Robert Miller, Tony Coles, Mike Daniels, and also from the Business Center, Alan Pixley.

Thank you very much.



Image from ice storm's damage earlier in January. Photo by Steve Clark

## From the American Crime Prevention Institute: Cell Phone Safety Tips

It is currently estimated in the United States that there are an additional 30,000 cellular phones in use every day. When people use cellular phones while driving motor vehicles, particularly when dialing a number, they are often distracted and traffic accidents occur. At least one community has passed local ordinances prohibiting the use of a cellular telephone while driving a motor vehicle.

The following are a series of safety tips for cell phone users:

•**Get to know your cell phone** and its features such as speed dial and redial. Carefully read your instruction manual and learn to take advantage of features most phones offer including automatic redial and memory dial – most phones can store up to 99 numbers in memory dial. Also, work to memorize the phone keypad so you can use the speed dial function without taking your attention off the road.

•**Use hands free devices.** A number of hands free cell phone accessories are readily available today. Whether you choose an installed mounted device for your phone or a speaker phone accessory, take advantage of these devices if available to you.

•**Position your phone within easy reach.** Make sure you place your cell phone within easy reach and

where you can grab it without removing your eyes from the road. If you get an incoming call at an inconvenient time, let your voice mail answer it for you.

•**Suspend conversation** during hazardous conditions or situations. Let the person you are speaking to know you are driving; if necessary, suspend the call in heavy traffic or hazardous weather conditions. Rain, sleet, snow and ice can be hazardous. But so is heavy traffic. As a driver, your first responsibility is to pay attention to the road.

•**Pay attention to the road.** Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving. If you are reading an address book or business card while driving a car, or writing a "to do" list, then you are not watching where you are going. It's common sense. Don't get caught up in a dangerous situation because you are reading or writing and not paying attention to the road or nearby vehicles.

•**Dial sensibly and assess the traffic;** if possible, place calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic. Try to plan your calls before you begin your trip, or attempt to coincide your calls with times that you may be stopped at a stop sign, red light or otherwise stationary. But if you need to dial while driving, follow this simple tip – dial only a few num-

bers, check the road and your mirrors, then continue.

•**Use your phone to call for help.** Your cellular phone is one of the greatest tools you can own to protect yourself and your family in dangerous situations – with your phone at your side, help is only three numbers away. Dial 9-1-1 in the case of fire, traffic accident, road hazard, or medical emergencies. Remember, it is a free call on your cell phone.

•**Use your phone to help others in emergencies.** Your cellular phone provides you a perfect opportunity to be a "Good Samaritan" in your community. If you see an auto accident, crime in progress or other serious emergency where lives are in danger, call 9-1-1, as you would want others to do for you.

•**Call roadside assistance** or a special cell phone non-emergency assistance number when necessary. Certain situations you encounter while driving may require attention but are not urgent enough to merit a call to 9-1-1. But you can still use your cell phone to lend a hand. If you see a broken-down vehicle posing no serious hazard, a broken traffic signal, a minor traffic accident where no one appears injured, or a vehicle you know to be stolen, call roadside assistance or other special non-emergency wireless numbers.

# R e e l R e v i e w s

By Steven Walker

The first of the year is always a slow time for movies. Most audiences prefer their warm homes to a chilly theater and studios use the time to release movies they don't have very much confidence in. Most of these flicks are pop trash unworthy of a better release date, but every year a few good movies slip through and fail to get the attention they deserve.

If you prefer mainstream movies, *Cast Away* is your best choice. If you're in the mood for something a little different, check out some of these unsung heroes.

**Traffic \*\*\*\*****Rated R****Released by USA Films****Directed by Steven Soderbergh****Screenplay by Stephen Gaghan from a story by Simon Moore**

Ask ten people what they think about the drug problem in North America and you will get ten different answers. The topic is more steeped in controversy than any other social problem. Trying to make a movie that cuts through this issue's many shades of gray without being biased is a bold endeavor. Succeeding is nothing short of a miracle.

Traffic is a breath of fresh air for anyone who has been disappointed by Hollywood's attempts to depict the drug world. The movie shows us the enormous complexities of drug trafficking from many different points of view, never taking sides and never dumbing down the ideas. It portrays drug use and abuse with surprising honesty and trusts the audience to make their own judgments.

The screenplay weaves almost a dozen story threads into a picture of America's war on drugs that is powerful and educational. The large cast is excellent with many popular character actors giving first-rate performances. Two that really stand out are Benicio del Toro as a Mexican cop with inside knowledge of the cartels and Michael Douglas as the new drug czar who's daughter may be a heroin addict.

This is the perfect film for lovers of good drama and required viewing for anyone who still thinks the war on drugs can be won with guns and prisons. Entertaining, well crafted and relevant; Traffic will be remembered as one of the great films.

**Thirteen Days \*\*\*****Rated PG-13****Released by New Line Cinema****Directed by Roger Donaldson****Screenplay by Philip D. Zelikow**

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the apex of the Cold War and a headliner in American history. Those who lived through it will always remember and they will never let future generations forget. For two weeks we teetered on the edge of full nuclear war and only the cool heads of powerful men saved us.

This material is ripe for a dramatic re-telling and Thirteen Days doesn't miss a step. We move through history like a fly on the wall, witnessing things the textbooks only hint at. It takes some of history's pivotal figures and exposes them as real men with the same emotions and flaws that we have. Even though we know how it will end, the characters do not, and their fear is palatable.

The story is seen through the eyes of Kenny O'Donnell (Kevin Costner attempting a New England accent), one of John F. Kennedy's senior aids. He is perhaps the most ordinary man in this situation and a natural choice to frame the story around.

Acting is all-important to a movie like this and most of the cast is exceptional. Bruce Greenwood and Steven Culp are at the top of their game as John and Robert Kennedy. Both men look and sound much like their historical counterparts and lend them a humanity that is obscured in news footage. Even Kevin Costner does a competent job in a role that is quite a bit different from his standard fair.

You would expect a movie like this to go slow but director Roger Donaldson manages to keep up a fast pace. A lot of potentially boring exposition is done visually and the action, although sparse, is tense and well executed. Lengthy dialogue scenes are delivered with energy and wit.

This is not to say that the movie is flawless. There are a few brief bouts of pretension involving Costner's character, as well as bizarre and unnecessary use of black and white photography.

Overall, I think history buffs will rejoice and anyone who enjoys political thrillers will get their money's worth. Everyone else will be missing out on one of the best historical dramas in years.

**Cast Away \*\*\*****Rated PG-13****Directed by Robert Zemeckis****Reviewed by Amy Burns**

Cast Away is a funny, dramatic, realistic, incredible tearjerker. I cried during and after the movie. It was perfect. The story couldn't have been told any other way. You wouldn't believe it any other way. It was so moving.

Chuck Noland, played by Tom Hanks, works for Federal Express and lives by time. Everything must be on time to the second. It's his job and he's made it his life. He's in love with Kelly Frears (Helen Hunt) and enjoys spending time with her, when he finds the time. Rushing off to yet another important assignment, he gives Kelly an engagement ring box and tells her not to open it until he gets back, and he assures her that he will be right back. In a dramatic crisis scene, the plane crashes into the ocean. Chuck is left with almost no hope on a deserted island longing for his true love.

My favorite part of the movie is the soccer ball, that Chuck turns into his best friend, turning our worries and tears into laughter during his stay on the island. And when and if he does get off the island, will Kelly still be home waiting for him? This is a must see movie! It's better than I imagined from the previews. Take a date and enjoy the show!

**Snatch \*\*\* 1/2****Rated R****Released by Columbia Pictures****Written and Directed by Guy Richie**

Snatch is the epitome of the culture clash between England and America. It is a wild ride into London's criminal underground that leaves you breathless, confused, and entertained.

Anyone not familiar with the peculiar nature of British humor will spend most of the time staring at the screen in wide-eyed silence. Those who understand it will be rewarded with the most off-beat and amusing movie of the new year.

The plot, and I use the word lightly, revolves around the theft of an 86-karat diamond (drool!). It is stolen from gem dealers in the opening scenes only to be stolen again, then again, and again.

Some of the hands it falls into are a boxing promoter named Turkish, a gambling addict named Frankie Four Fingers, a bare knuckle boxing champion, three incompetent thieves, a dog who swallows squeak toys whole, and a bookmaker who likes to feed people to pigs.

If all this sounds confusing, don't worry, it makes even less sense on the screen. Everything and the kitchen sink is thrown at you in such a furious way that you spend most of the movie playing catch up. Only after the credits roll and you've had time to reflect do you understand the the story's twisted logic.

The dialogue is excellent, if you can wade through the thick British accents, and the frantic editing will knock your eyeballs back in your head. If you step out to the bathroom, you've missed at least ten good scenes.

Most of the actors are unknown to American audiences, but everyone does a great job. Brad Pitt, the only A-List actor in the picture, gives us his strangest role yet. He plays a boxer named Mickey who speaks with an accent so bizarre that even the other characters are scratching their heads. It is such a departure from his pretty-boy origins that you find yourself thinking, "Bloody hell, is that really Brad Pitt?"

An American movie named Snatch would be a raunchy teen comedy. Translate it to British, however, and you have world-class entertainment. It makes you wonder what they put in the tea over there.

**Rating Scale:**

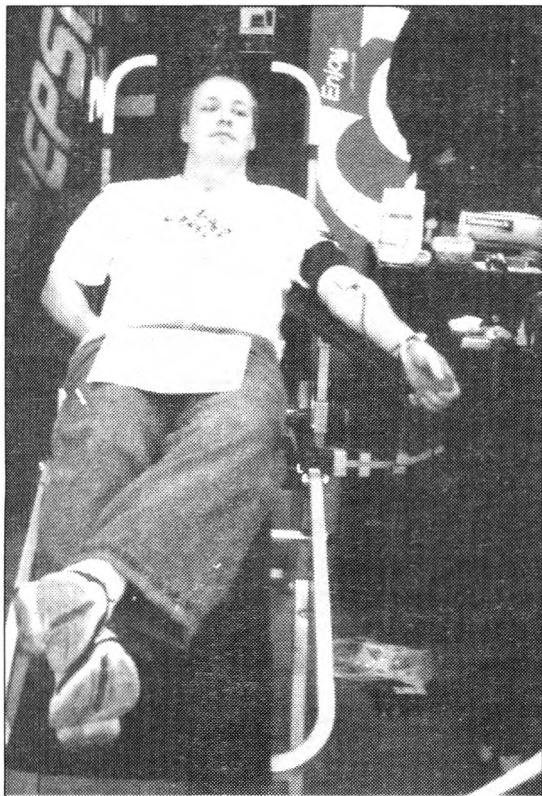
\*\*\*\* **Brilliant! Go out and see it immediately.**

\*\*\* **Enjoyable; worth the price of admission.**

\*\* **It has a few good moments, but wait until video**

\* **Dreadful. Avoid at all costs.**

## Westark Students Take Time To Help Others



Leo Williams, Westark student, participated in the blood drive on Jan. 26, in the Fullerton Union. Photo by Michelle Holloway.

Clay Garretson  
Student Life Reporter

The Student Advisory Council sponsored a United Blood Services blood drive on Jan. 26 in Fullerton Union. Connie Olcott, senior community relations representative said, "As of 10 a.m., we have 20 units and we hope to have 75 at the end of the day."

According to the pamphlet that donors are required to read, the donation is a 30 to 45 minute process, but most donors did not mind the wait.

Garth Nelson, math major said, "I was talked into donating by the fact that such a low percentage of donors are men."

According to the posted flyers, donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 lbs. and show ID.

Other qualifications include no use of needles to take drugs, no current use of antibiotics, negative for HIV and AIDS, and last but not least, a donor must not have had hepatitis after age 11.

Total Fitness students had an extra incentive to give. Kristi Jones at the fitness center said, "we are giving students enrolled in Total Fitness a one visit, one circuit credit for donating blood."

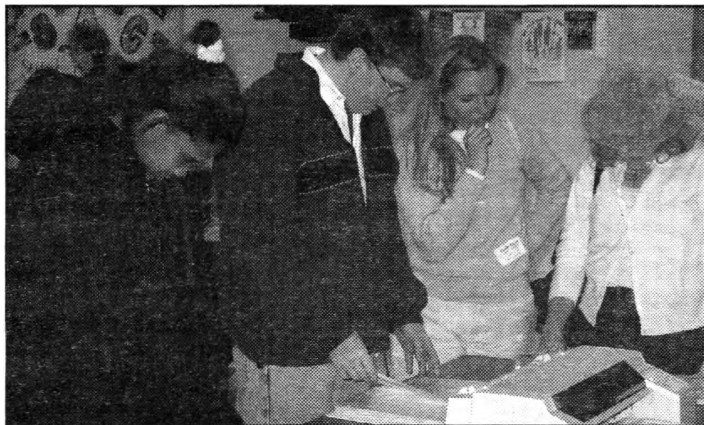
## Quarter Feeds Body and Soul

Clay Garretson  
Student Life Reporter

The Westark Baptist Student Union is the place to enjoy a cheap meal and a short devotional every Wednesday at noon. Around 50 students enjoy a satisfying lunch each week for only a quarter.

The food is usually provided by the church that the speaker comes from. The speaker is generally given around 30 minutes to speak on some aspect of Christian living. The quarters, which are collected in a bucket, are used to help Westark College students go on summer mission trips.

B.S.U. Director Keith Garner said, "We have had a lunch program ever since the Westark B.S.U. has existed. Students of any denomination are welcome to join us."



Students from Media Day also got a chance to take part in the "Make Your Own CD". Photo by James Day.

## Stars Born In Union

Clay Garretson  
Student Life Reporter

On Jan. 18, the Student Advisory Council made it possible for anyone at Westark to make their own CD for free. One Hit Wonder, a division of Paradigm Entertainment brought in the equipment and personnel to make this possible. Despite a printer malfunction, people lined up for this opportunity.

One of the first performances was a certain reporter who recorded his rendition of "Don't Rock the Jukebox." One act that couldn't be missed was a group from Porum High School calling themselves the Fab Four. The group, consisting of Leah Purdom, Robin Cottrell, Jenni Whitman, and Sabrina Richardson said, "We made our CD to save as a senior memory."

Others such as Jenny Hess, computer science major, just wanted to try their hand at singing their favorite song.

## Employee Fired Over Feminist Quote in E-mail

Kevin Groen  
UWM Post (U. Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

(U-WIRE) MILWAUKEE — A part time classified employee in the School of Allied Health at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is currently aggressively seeking legal counsel.

The plaintiff in the case, Mary Pichelmann, is suing her past employers for allegedly restricting her first amendment rights as well as wrongfully firing her. She was an employee there from Aug. 13 to Dec. 20.

The matter started over an e-mail she sent to the Dean of the School of Allied Health, Randall Lambrecht.

In the e-mail her signature that was attached was a quote by a feminist writer Gloria Steinem saying, "The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." Steinem visited UWM in Oct. last year.

Her supervisors, Mary K. Madsen, professor and chair of the Department of Health Sciences and Randall Lambrecht, dean of the School of Allied Health ordered Pichelmann to remove the quote Sept. 22. They said it was vulgar and she could be disciplined if it was not removed. Pichelmann was fired several weeks later.

According to a second performance report, she received on Dec. 20, she was an unsatisfactory worker. On the same day Madsen asked her to join her in a meeting where Pichelmann asked to have her employee representative present during the meeting.

According to a statement of facts Pichelmann supplied to the Post, Madsen denied her request and she was asked to leave the building or security would be called.

"This is just a freedom of speech issue," Pichelmann said. Pichelmann was not given a letter of explanation until eight days after she was fired. That letter was signed by Madsen and Lambrecht and received on Dec. 28.

Madsen would not comment on anything due to this being a personal action.

According to a decision and order written by Judge Randa, he says, "The court is extremely skeptical that the First Amendment protects the plaintiff's desire to quote Ms. Steinem's views on the nature of truth in e-mails generated at work."

The next step is to take the case that Pichelmann's employee rep has been putting together, and give it to an attorney.

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# Bacone or Bacon?

## Westark Sizzled Over Conference Opponent Bacone Riders

Mark Mondier  
Sports Editor

If Westark had any doubts about whether they could rebound from a near last-minute comeback over Carl Albert, their minds could rest easy, and early.

Westark strung together a flurry of runs and numerous defensive stops, downing the Riders 96-38 in a homecoming affair at Westark Fieldhouse, Jan. 20.

The first five minutes served as an indicator for the rest of the game, as the Lions opened up an 8-0 lead and didn't allow Bacone to scratch a single point on the board.

When Bacone did score, they cut the Lion lead to 8-3, connecting on three straight free throw attempts. Whatever life the Riders had was cut short minutes later when Westark ripped off seven straight. Billy Pharis proved his inside presence by connecting on back to back baskets, including an old fashioned three point play. Seconds later Sandy ignited the crowd with a jumper that put the Lions on top, 15-3.

The rough start didn't smooth out much the rest of the half as the Riders only shot 6-21 from the field. Meanwhile, everything Westark attempted seemed to find the bottom of the twine, including an acrobatic shot by forward **Cedrick Hughey, helping Westark tally forty-seven points at the half.**

The final twenty minutes didn't show Westark letting up. The Lions once again denied



Westark's Danny McCall shoots over Belco Bambu of Bacone. Photo courtesy of Laura Martin.

the Riders a basket for over five minutes holding Bacone to just twenty points in the second half.

The Westark offense was also firing on all cylinders, with transition baskets occurring almost every other play, led by Chris Sandy with three in a span of just over four minutes. Jamal Holden added an exclamation point to the evening by jamming one home. The Lions increased the lead by as many as sixty points late in the game.

Billy Pharis, leading all scores with 16, believed it was important not only for himself to have a big game, but for the team to win a home game after losing to Carl Albert.

"It feels good to come out and play well after I struggled the past few games," said Pharis.

He added, "We slipped up against Carl Albert. We need to defend our home court and jockey for position in the regional tournament and to win the conference."

Thomas Hill and Cedrick Hughey each added 13 points in the winning effort, with Chris Sandy contributing 11, and Jarrett Hart scoring 9. Danny McCall, Jamal Holden, and Rodney Dumas each added 8 points as well.

The Lions won on the road against Conners Jan. 22 and at home against Murray St. Jan. 25. They return to play at Westark Fieldhouse Jan 29.

# Westark Turns Crowder to Chowder

Brian Dodson  
Staff Reporter

The Lady Lions were expecting a tough game after only edging out Crowder by five points on their floor, but this time Westark turned the tide.

Stingy defense and an offense scoring at will led to an 81-49 spanking of the Lady Riders, Jan 18.

Westark started the game with stifling defense, not allowing a single point in the first three minutes of the game. Meanwhile, the Lady Lion offense erupted for seven straight points on a

jumper by Ankika McCoy, a trifecta by Tia Watson and a fast break lay-up after a steal by McCoy.

The Lady Riders scored the next six points, but this would be as close as they got for the contest. Westark's Tonya Spearman countered the Crowder run with a three pointer that would ignite a 40-20 outscoring to end the half with Westark on top 47-26. Westark tallied seven three pointers in the first half led by sophomore Amber Holland with three.

The second half would be

no different from the first as the Lady Lions scored the first five points on a jump shot for two by Holland and a three pointer from Marianne Hawking. The Westark defense was steel-curtain like at times, only allowing twenty-three points in the second half. The final nail in the coffin came when Holland hit a three followed by Spearman connecting on back to back old-fashioned three pointers to stop a six point run by the Lady Riders.

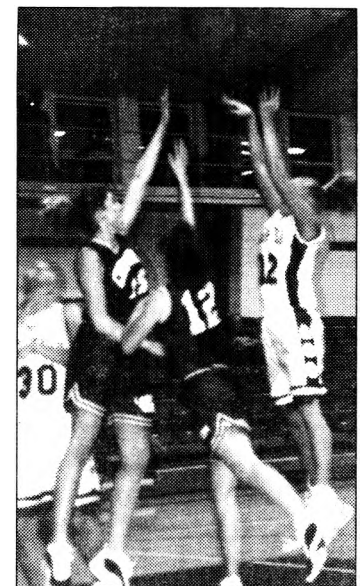
Even though this was a non-conference match-up, it

was a big conference booster for the Lady Lion's before they dive back into conference play.

"Hopefully we can use this as a jump start as we go back into conference play," said Lady Lion head coach Louis Whorton.

All Westark players scored in the contest, led by Spearman, McCoy and Holland reaching double figures.

The Lady Lions played host to conference foe Bacone Saturday, winning 84-50 on homecoming night.



Westark's Amber Holland shoots a jumper over two Crowder defenders. Photo courtesy of Nobuyuki Terajima.