

LION PRIDE

5210 GRAND AVE.

FORT SMITH, AR 72913

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others share reactions

President explains rationale for cuts

"The problem is a 30 percent enrollment growth, and a need for a 41 percent increase in funding," says president Joel Stubblefield, as he explains the rationale for dropping the law enforcement program and the Child Development Center.

"We received no additional increase from the state. We are short 36 faculty members, and \$987,000 behind in equipment needs. There are some instructors who haven't received a pay raise in over five years, also. It's not that we want to cut, but we have to cut where it will hurt the fewest people."

"It's not that we want to cut, but we have to cut where it will hurt the fewest people."

The administration first looks at marginal statistics. "There is seldom more than 12 students per class in law enforcement, and we are short three teachers in biology. The enrollment in biology classes sometimes reaches over 100 per class. We also need the classroom space."

Next they look at cost statistics. "We spend \$75,000 per year on the Child Development Center, and take in only \$15,000 in fees. We are approximately \$2 million behind, so we have to cut in areas that do not contribute to the mission of the college."

The college has had to make several cuts in recent years such as: transportation, building trades, drama, ceramics, human services, fire science, and cooperative education. "Next year we will also cut the position of a physical education instructor," explains Stubblefield.

What about the instructors employment positions? "We have only one part-time director for law

enforcement, and since he is only part-time he has probably already considered alternative employment. The Child Development Center has one full-time director, and six part-time employees. We will do all we can to help them find alternative employment."

What about the students almost completed with their major in law enforcement and students who depend on the Child Development Center as a means of support? "I have talked with Harold Hile, chairman of social and behavioral sciences, and he will study this problem in law enforcement. Evidently, there are a few students in this situation, and we will offer some summer courses to help them finish."

"About a half dozen students depend on the Child Development Center to take care of their children. We have offered scholarships to these who couldn't afford one of the other six child care centers in town. But there are six others. So that is the third thing considered, which areas are central to the mission of the college."

Will the need for funding affect plans for the University Center? "This will not affect in dollars, because the funding goes to the universities, so we may ask the universities for building support. We hope the legislature will hold a special session, and give some more funding, but until then we have to cut somewhere," says the president.

"The enrollment was improving. Thirty people enrolled in my criminology class," says Dr. Ron Tucker, law enforcement instructor. "My law enforcement seminar was the only one which had only 12 people."

The enrollment for the Child Development Center increased 33 percent over the past year, according to Remy Burris, director. "If they (the administration) says the reason the center's closing is a

decrease in enrollment, then I'm afraid I can't support that. If the reason they give is a decrease in funds, then I can support them."

The cutting of the programs came as both a surprise to Burris and Tucker. "I found out in the *Southwest Time Record* story (printed April 19), unfortunately," reveals Tucker. "I've since been apologized for it."

Burris found out April 18, the afternoon before the appearance of the story. Many parents received information the center was closing through either word of mouth, through the paper, or were told when they came to pick up their children.

"I hate it," says Leah Avery, of the closing. "I wrote a letter to Joel Stubblefield, the president, hoping to make a difference."

Avery wasn't the only student who wrote letters to the college president "hoping to make a difference." Vicki Arellanes not only sent a letter to Stubblefield, she sent letters to representatives Buddy Blair, B.G. Hendrix, Carolyn Pollard, and John Paul Hammerschmidt, the *Southwest Times Record*, Governor Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, and even President George Bush. "I'll do what I can for the center," she says.

"This has really put a damper on me," reveals Leah Avery. "I don't know if I can come back to school or not. The price of regular day care is just ridiculous."

Many parents agree the price of regular day care may keep them from returning to Westark. "The child development center's cheap for the quality of care they give to the children here," says student Carol Lonsway. "Most of us can't afford the cost of regular day care and tuition, too, though."

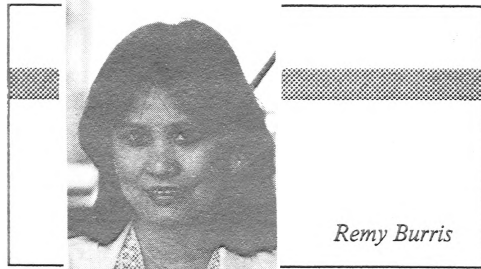
Many expressed disappointment at the college losing what they felt were quality programs. "I was disappointed, because I felt Westark had acquired a quality law enforcement program which received local as well as statewide recognition," comments Tucker.

With talk of the child development center being "too cheap," would parents support an increase in the cost of child care or help raise money, if it would mean saving the center?

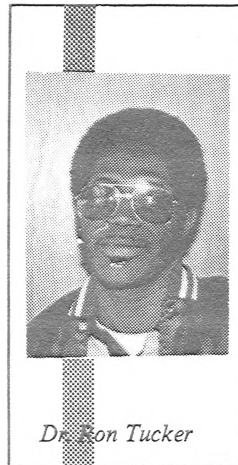
"It's sad for me to see the children playing, knowing I won't see them anymore," reflects Burris. "I feel sad yet fortunate. I've spent 11 years working here and my reward has been the children and the parents being so close and supportive to me."

"Westark's losing a good program and good students," concludes Tucker.

by Kassie Cassel and Stanley Sharp



Remy Burris



Dr. Ron Tucker

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PBL Earns Honors

BRIEFS

Library sets summer hours

The Library opens from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 4:30 p.m. Friday for the summer. The Library closes Saturday, but opens from 2 - 6 p.m. Sundays.

Two earn doctorate degrees

Sandi Sanders, Director of Community Services and Continuing Education, and Doris Van Horn, business instructor, have recently completed the requirements for their doctorates at the University of Arkansas.

Business instructor wins Whirlpool award

Dr. Bill Laceywell has been chosen by the Faculty Development Committee as this year's recipient of the Whirlpool Master Teacher Award. Whirlpool will fund his trip to Greenfield, Massachusetts, where he will attend a workshop this summer.

Public Info. office wins awards

The Public Information Office recently won two national CASE awards for last fall's newspaper and radio ads on 7 a.m. classes.

Other services list summer hours

The computer labs summer hours are: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The bookstore summer hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The cafeteria will serve from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. during summer sessions.

The Learning Assistance Center operates from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday this summer in its temporary location in V 203.

Retiring psychology instructor looks forward to traveling

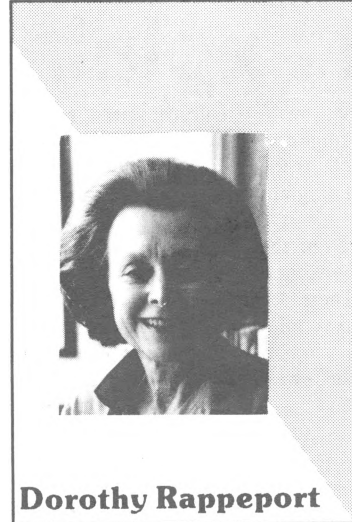
"My husband is retired, and he always said 'I hope you'll retire, too.' He's having lots of fun, so I decided I'd join him," says Dorothy Rappeport, psychology instructor. After 26 years of teaching at Westark, she will retire after the 1989 summer sessions.

Rappeport says she enjoys teaching because "I'm very student oriented. Every day is particular, and every class has its own personality. It's not the subject matter that makes it interesting, but the students, because they're always different. Almost any instructor would tell you that."

Rappeport stays busy throughout an 18-hour teaching day, starting at 4:30 a.m. After she retires, will she stay this busy? "I'll probably be very busy, but not at specific times and places." She says she and her husband will probably travel together after she retires. "We'll probably travel to New Zealand and Australia and have fun."

She also mentions she loves to fish with her husband, but doesn't usually get a chance because of her work schedule. "If it's a great day for fishing,

I can't come along because I teach."



Dorothy Rappeport

Would she ever consider returning to the college? "I have a lot of options. If the college ever needs me for anything, I'll be available. I never say never!"

by Chuck Becker

Choir director retires after 25 years

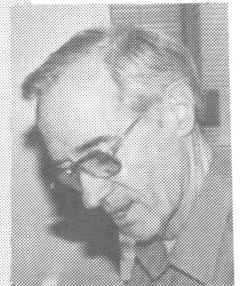
Soon Logan Green will walk through the door of retirement and into a new era of his life. His years of service to the college ending with lots of memories.

"Probably one of the peaks of my career at Westark was the bicentennial year," remarks Green. In 1976, the Westark Choir represented Arkansas in Washington, D.C. on "Arkansas Day."

Green also enjoyed directing Gilbert and Sullivan productions such as "The Pirates of Penzance," "Trial by Jury," "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Mikado," which the choir presented twice (including this year).

"Another highlight for me," adds Green, "was 1977 when we moved into the Breedlove Building. Before then, the choir rehearsed and had class in a small area of the Ballman-Speer Building."

Logan Green



Green received training at the College of the Ozarks, now the University of the Ozarks, and attended graduate school at Louisiana State University. He taught high school choir at Magazine and later at Booneville, where he resides. Green came to Westark in 1964.

He plans to spend more time with his family now. He and his wife have four children, who have all attended Westark, and grandchild number is on the way! Green says he may travel some, but he plans to keep in touch with Westark and the choral department.

by Jull Goldsmith



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Business Annex getting 'Westark' look

Now that the student union has adjusted to its latest renovations to the student activities office, more renovations on campus include the remodeling of the Business Annex, according to Ed Nagy, director of physical plant.

"We started on the outside, which was originally done in French Provincial style and didn't really go with the rest of the campus. We're reworking it so it does." After the front is taken care of, the inside classrooms get reworked to house many of the clerical and administrative offices presently on the first floor of the Vines Building.

After those Vines Building offices and occupants move to their new home, plans call to create new classrooms and faculty offices for the developmental educational division on the first floor of Vines. "The developmental ed. business is booming right now, that's one of the things that prompted these renovations. We need to keep them together in the Vines Building if possible, which is why we're relocating the others there now (in the downstairs area of the Vines Building)."

Not only does developmental education get new faculty offices and classrooms, but a new Learning Assistance Center is in the works, and the duplicating room will move down the hall by word processing.

The downstairs area in the Vines Building isn't the only place getting a facelift. The upstairs offices need "reorganization," according to Nagy. "The plans for these offices were done 'in house' many years ago, and they're just not conducive to doing efficient work. With all the growth the college is undergoing, we'll 'reorganize' the space to improve traffic flow, and the efficiency of the heating and air conditioning system. We're going to try and solve the problems people have lived with over the past six to eight years."

Just west of the Business Annex, a new parking lot, with over 200 parking spaces, makes its way to completion, according to Nagy. "The city is now building the underground pedestrian tunnel, and it's over halfway complete. One problem they've had in building it is the rain we've been having. It puts a lot of subsurface moisture in the ground and makes it difficult to build."

The lot will have two entrances: a one-way entrance on Grand and a

two-way passage on Grand. One aspect this lot will not have is handicapped spaces. "With the tunnel, if we built a ramp for wheelchairs to meet government specifications, it would stretch far back into the parking lot and on campus -- it would be a very long ramp. Instead we're going to increase the number of handicapped parking spaces here on the main campus and put up signs

warning students there is no handicapped parking in the new lot."

The target date to have all these projects completed is August 21, before the fall semester begins, says Nagy. The next projects to take shape by then are the renovation of the Echols cafetorium (now being used for storage space) into a meeting/assembly center. "It'll be for smaller, but not small groups. Right now the

architect's working on the plans for it."

Also the reshaping of Technical Complex 100 building is on the drawing boards. "We'll do it like we did the Business Annex and knock out the walls and reconstruct everything in there (classrooms, offices, etc.). It'll make the area a lot more efficient."

by Kassie Cassel



Giving the Business Annex a facelift numbers among many renovations taking place this summer. (photo by Greg Fore)

Awards reception honored outstanding students

Nearly 100 students received honors for academic excellence and extracurricular achievements at the awards reception held last month in the student union.

20 students made the National Dean's List. They included: Myron Kirksey, Marcilla Croslin, Kimberly Blythe, Seema Ahmed, Malynda Atwood, Marquita Carty, Pat Lee, Peggy Montgomery, Lisa Shaw, LeNita Shumate, Jack Sparks, Carol Warner, Greg Fore, Reid Newman, Andrew Wheeler, David Wennberg, Rita Belt, Carol Ann Davis, Erin Parker, and Patricia Paxton.

20 students also received recognition from the Student Activities Council. They included: Bobby Parker, Brenda Boucher, Shelly Curtis, Agatha DeBoer, Stacey Dishner, Robbin Edwards, Amanda Elder, Julie Feener, Travis Hopson, James Hornsey, Stephen Hornsey, Kevin LaBorn, Tracey Lynch, Patrick Pendleton, Spence Smith, Reyna Sullivan, Cathy Gramlich, Stephanie Hester, Kristina Lindstrom, and Terry Cook. SAC Programmer of The Year is Patrick Pendleton.

Phi Beta Lambda, which won Club of The Year honors for the second year in a row, honored Kimberly Blythe, Marti Panikkar, Jim McCormick, Debra Ann Cheek, Tammy Buchanan, Lori Beran, and Joe Gossett.

Other Outstanding Student awards went to David Furr (Biology), Seema Ahmed (Chemistry), Mark Crawford (Mathematics), Robert Allen (Physics), Ted Pinkston

(Engineering), Juanita Smith (*Lion Pride*), Heather North (*NUMA*), Curtis Haney (Photography), Barbara Pope (Journalism and Humanities), Marti Panikkar (General Business), Geneva Craig (Finance and Banking), Susan Crisman (Secretarial Careers), Greg Fore (History), Banessa Flinn and Deborah Gilbreth (Surgical Technology), Patricia Webster (Paramedic), Dana Drden and Larry Churchill (Practical Nursing), Julie Jay and Kimberly Young (ADN), Gary Rhodes (Machine Shop), Rita Belt (Drafting), Teresa Britt (Spanish), Mary Ann Henning (French), Mark Garrett (Vocal Music), Jim Maxwell (Music Theory), Grant Camden (Sophomore Musician), Tony Hayes (Applied Music), Spence Smith (Most Improved Musician), and Lucretia Moreton (Talent Roster Certificate of Achievement).

Students honored for club achievements included: Shannon Hicks, Norman Martland, Charles Warr, and Lynn Thomas (Blue Knights), Kevin Gary and Jeannette Parish (STEP), Carolyn Cavender, Lisa Kobler, and Frances Casey (WSNA), Kimberly Blythe (PTK), and Carol Ann Davis (Pride of Westark).

The Public Awareness Committee also honored students from five divisions. They included: Shelly Mullen (social/behavioral sciences), Ronald Moore (science/math), Ali Lucas (humanities), Rita Belt (technology), and Kimberly Blythe (business).

LAC improves retention with tutoring

Courses with the highest drop rates, according to Diana Davis, counselor, include math courses starting at the college algebra level and moving through higher levels. She says this is because "students aren't prepared going in, or if they have the prerequisites, they didn't spend enough time doing homework."

Those courses and a myriad of others, states Zoe Morgan, coordinator of the Learning Assistance Center, are also those for which students most often come to the center for help. However, she comments, the difficulty of the courses is not really the reason why the students go to the LAC. She says it relates more to the instructors. "[Students from] certain teachers use

the LAC. Students from others don't," relates Morgan.

The following list includes some of the courses for which students most often request tutoring, etc. and why. Math because it builds sequentially, and if a student misses something he gets into trouble. Foreign Language because students need help with conversation and understanding. Writing because students enter with weak skills and recognize the need for writing skills. Chemistry and physics because they are difficult content courses. Anatomy, physiology and biology because students have to put together concepts and they must have a large vocabulary. U.S. History because most of these students are entering freshman who aren't



Tutoring sessions help students keep up. (photo by Greg Fore)

experienced in how college operates. Bookkeeping and accounting because it contains concepts students have never thought about before.

A common reason for doing poorly in a subject is being afraid of it, says Morgan. This phenomenon receives such titles as science anxiety, math anxiety and writing apprehension. This often results from past embarrassments in the subject or from fear of the unknown, according to Dr. Nancy Vandett, director of instructional services and academic support. These anxieties later result in students avoiding the courses or claiming the courses aren't relevant.

Vandett's remedy for combatting the dreaded fear of school includes action on both the students' and the

instructors' parts. Teachers should be supportive and should give plenty of positive feedback to the student, she says. Students should not take comments on their work personally. They should talk to their instructors about their problems and visit the LAC for help.

This last method apparently helps. Robert Dyer is a student who has been helped. His grade verged on an "F" in his anatomy and physiology class, but he got Daphne Richmond for a tutor and "she made worksheets. She would go over lecture notes. She even sometimes sat in on class. She made sample tests, and I ended up pulling a really high C in the class."

by Jason Earll

Summer enrollment continues increases

"We have the same amount of people registered for summer I as we did the first fall semester I was here," says Dennis Cash, registrar. (Cash came to Westark in 1969.)

Twenty years later, headcount for summer I enrollment is 1,404, a 30% increase over last year's tally of 1,075, according to Dr. Eric Priest, vice president for student affairs. The average number of hours a student's taking is 3.6.

"A lot of our students are transient students," reveals Dr. Priest. "As tuition costs go higher at other colleges and universities, I think the option of taking classes here is becoming important. Some of the enrollment, particularly in the technical areas, are people laid off and/or recently unemployed. The third reason I think enrollment's going up is there's a good deal of excitement over the University Center, and a lot of people are taking the necessary classes in preparation for this."

Lots of overlap occurs on the transfer and returning students, because "people come down here from the universities in the summer to take classes, but are also former students of ours."

The first classes to fill for summer I were the math, Freshman English I, and the evening computer classes. The biggest increases show up in general education courses, developmental education, technology, and health occupations, although "all the divisions are up because enrollment's up."

Registration for summer II and III looks "fantastic," adds Dr. Priest. "We're now already exceeding last year's total and we're still registering students. Summer I was up 31% and the total registration for summer looks to be the same increase, overall. Summer II's ahead 50% of last year's total at this time, and summer III's up 75% already. It's just phenomenal! We're already adding a lot of classes."

Any chance of breaking 5,000 for fall? "There's good chance of it. We're very close. All it would take is a 16% increase," concludes Dr. Priest.

by Kassie Cassel

New courses explore latest technology

Students can explore the workings of the newest technological products through seven new microcomputer and electronics technology courses beginning this summer and fall.

Courses include "Programmable Controllers," "IBM PC and Apple II+/Ie Troubleshooting," "Video Cassette Recorder Repair," "Surface-Mounted Device Soldering/Desoldering," "IEEE-488 Bus Applications," and "Data Communications: RS-232, MODEMS and LANs."

The two-credit-hour programmable controllers course, offered both first and second summer terms, overviews the selection, operation, and programming of industrial programmable controllers. Applications presented define design requirements for I/O cards, memory, scan time, and computer interface.

The one-credit-hour IBM troubleshooting course, offered this first summer session, will also be available in the fall. It covers basic maintenance and troubleshooting techniques for the IBM PC family. Students learn to diagnose problem chips or boards using structured observation and diagnostic software/hardware. The Apple course also emphasizes troubleshooting techniques for the Apple computers and peripherals with emphasis placed on common failures, such as RAM, power supply, disk drives, and printers. The course is available during second summer term.

The one-credit-hour surface-mounted devices course, also offered during second summer term, develops the knowledge and manipulative skills necessary to desolder, select, replace and resolder the SMD components on the typical circuit boards.

VCR repair is a four credit hour course available during the second and third summer terms. It teaches the operating theory and repair of typical VCRs including cleaning, lubrication of mechanisms, and tension adjustments.

The one-credit-hour bus applications course available fall semester explains the design and data transfer features of the IEEE-488 or HPIB or GPIB I/O. Programming examples and applications are developed to demonstrate computer to instrument communication.

The one-credit-hour data communications course, also available in the fall, is for operators, programmers, or users of computer systems who need a basic understanding of the hardware/software requirements for data transfer. The diagnosis and resolution of problems will be demonstrated for RS-232/422 interfaces, MODEMS, and LANs.

Science students travel for internships this summer

A biology major named Darwin? Could this be an omen? Darwin Groomer, range and wildlife major; Carla Beaseley, fisheries and wildlife management major; and Kristin Lack, zoology and marine biology major; will be spending 12 weeks of their summer identifying wildlife. They receive \$40 per month, room and board, and transportation.

Christin plans to work with the Student Conservation Association on the Resource Assistance Program. She will go to Patauxante Wildlife Refuge in Maryland between Chesapeake Bay and Washington, D.C. She will identify invertebrates.

Christin says Westark laid a good foundation of learning for her further studies at the University of Oklahoma. Although born in California, Kristin lived in Minnesota for seven years, and graduated high school in Gans, Oklahoma. She says this trip away from home will come as no surprise, because of her life of travel. She is excited, because east is the only direction she has not traveled. She realized her interest in biology in the eleventh grade, but always loved animals from the experiences on her grandfather's farm.

Carla plans to head for Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Van Buren, Missouri, which is 45 miles west of Poplar Bluff. She will instruct people on how to get down a river safely in a canoe. Then, she will take groups down river on Saturdays and Sundays.

"I was always the kid on camping trips who tried to identify every flower. Whatever I knew I told my friends, but I didn't realize Biology as a career goal until I had to about my junior year." Carla is a native of Fort Smith and graduated from Southside.

Charles Darwin formed the theory of evolution in 1859. One hundred thirty years later (1989), Darwin Groomer heads for Chiricahua National Monument, one hundred miles south of Tucson, Arizona, where the nearest town is 35 miles away. He will study fire fighting, and do prescribed burnings and revegetation. Darwin graduated high school in Greenwood, but was born in Tempe, Arizona. "Some of my friends tease me about my name being Darwin, and call me stupid for going to the middle of nowhere. If there is ever a national forest fire I'll make about twenty bucks an hour."

Maybe this Darwin will prove the old Darwin's theory while fighting forest fires, and make twenty bucks an hour while he does it. Charles Darwin probably never earned twenty dollars an hour.

by Stanley Sharp



Science students Kristin Lack (above) and Carla Beaseley and Darwin Groomer (below) get a headstart on their careers this summer. (photos by Stan Sharp)

FEATURES

Gibbons enjoys academic freedom

"It's been fun! I've enjoyed teaching a great deal," relates psychology instructor Linda Gibbons, one of the recipients of the Excellence In Teaching Award. Although Linda has a background in art, she ended up teaching psychology because it seemed to her "a real worthwhile subject".

Linda had worked as a commercial artist for three years and began feeling like it was pointless. "Getting together somebody's ad for a paper didn't allow for much creativity," says Linda who admits disliking the deadline pressure. "I finally got 'burned out' and decided if I was going to kill myself working, I'd rather do it for something more worthwhile."

So Linda got back into college majoring in psychology with the idea of "being a helping person." Upon completing her master's degree in clinical psychology at Oklahoma State University, Linda's advisor told her about a teaching job available at Westark. "I didn't apply until a month later, because I hadn't really thought about teaching. I'd planned to be a therapist."

While visiting friends in Fort Smith, she applied and later got the job. The idea of having some 'freedom' in working the flexible hours as an instructor appealed to her. She and her husband, Frank, planned to buy some land and live outside the city. "It would have been difficult commuting as a therapist with all the case load work," she explains. Impressed with the mountainous country surrounding Fort Smith, the Gibbons' bought their place outside Mansfield, where they've lived since Linda came to Westark 14 years ago.

In that time, Linda has developed beyond her classroom teaching. "The nicest thing about teaching at Westark has been that it offers you the 'freedom' to move in whatever direction you're inclined to go." We have the freedom, teaching at the two-year college level, to start moving in other areas like research."

A few years ago, Linda began working with computers. Last semester she taught the 'Learning to Learn' course, and this fall she'll be involved with the honors program of which she's spent the last two years developing. She's always incorporated what she learned from these programs into the classroom. And after working in the honors program a few years, Linda hopes to get back into computers putting together some interactive video for the psychology course.

Linda, who's "very grateful" and feels this honor "very nice," has plans for the money received in the Excellence In Teaching Award. "The \$2,000 for equipment allotment will help me in the honors program a great deal." She's thinking about purchasing a computer for this program and possibly furniture for the honors lounge. "Then with the \$1,000 personal money I'll probably get the same type of computer to use for working at home."

Through the years, Linda's received comments from students reinforcing the idea that psychology is a worthwhile subject to teach. "A lot of students will come up after the course saying how much it made them understand people, even themselves, and how much more accepting they've gradually learned to become."

The process of going to college, in general, does this for the student also, according to Linda. "But I think a psychology course has a 'special ability' in letting people know that everybody's a little bit crazy and that you don't have to worry quite so much about yourself. It's just a worthwhile subject to teach."

by Deborah Reynolds

Faculty Senate Selects 'Excellence In Teaching Award' Winners

Two instructors receive \$1,000 for themselves, plus \$2,000 to purchase equipment for their programs as a result of being named winners by the Faculty Senate of this year's "Excellence In Teaching Award."

Linda Gibbons, psychology, and David Meeks, biology, won the honor announced by Ed Levy, chairman of the Faculty Senate. The other finalist was Tom Walton, journalism/speech.

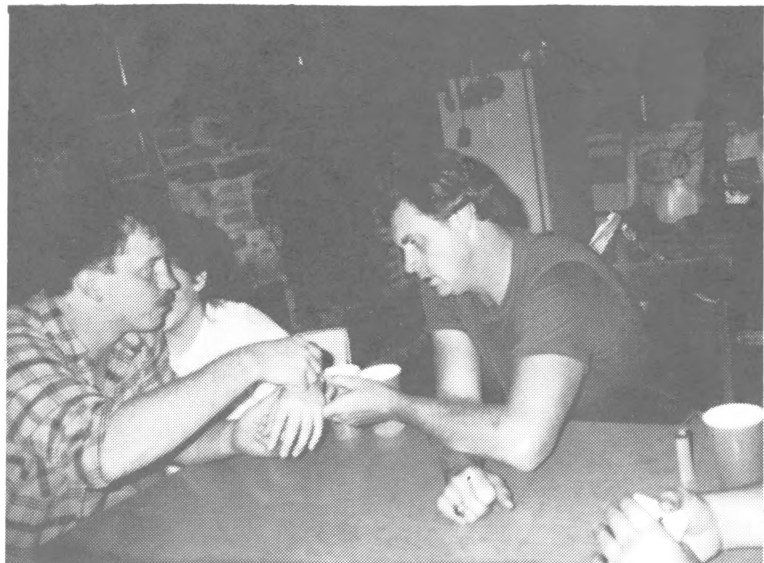
The committee evaluated the nominees based on a criteria which included their involvement with students both in and out of the classroom, their teaching philosophy, their involvement in college governance, other service to the college, and faculty development activities.



Linda Gibbons



David Meeks



Science instructor David Meeks spending time with his students on an Ozark Ecology trip last year. (Lion Pride file photo)



Psychology instructor Linda Gibbons breaks from her desk just for a moment. (photo by Greg Fore)

Mature student needed to work full-time for two weeks this summer as vacation replacement for clerk in used bookstore. Can select weeks to suit student's schedule. Must have good grades and character references. \$4.50 per hour. Call 785-5642 for interview appointment.



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Meeks enjoys college atmosphere

Possibly one of the biggest honors anyone can receive in their careers is being recognized as one of the best in their field. Recently science instructor David Meeks got the chance to experience this as he won an Excellence in Teaching Award for 1989.

Meeks found out he won Tuesday, April 25, when he received a call from Faculty Senate chairman Ed Levy giving him the news. "I was elated and overjoyed. Winning this means a lot to me as a teacher. I enjoy teaching and my students, and to be recognized for this is very gratifying," relates Meeks.

Meeks tallies up 17 years as an instructor at Westark, starting here right out of graduate school. He's always taught biology, botany, and Ozark ecology. "I had never really thought about being a teacher until grad school. I realized I enjoyed school and the college atmosphere so much I really think I would have been unhappy away from it. I just like teaching, college, and the atmosphere so much I luckily kind of fell into teaching."

While Meeks just plans to pay bills with his \$1000, he has different plans for the \$2000 meant for his department.

"Last year I wanted to take a couple of courses, but the faculty commission couldn't afford it. If they don't have the money for that this year I'd like to use part of it for that and further my education." Other things he's eyeing is equipment for classes. "Last year we (the department) purchased a video camera and it was very useful for classes. If the money for something like it isn't in the budget, then I'll purchase it with the money."

For the selection process of the competition, Meeks says he did "nothing special." He supplied information to the committee on what professional organizations he was a part of, the special projects he deals with, and the special emphasis of his classes. He also was evaluated by two of his classes and was visited in his botany class by members of the faculty senate committee. But what put him over the top?

"I spoke to Ed Levy (chairman of the Faculty Senate Committee) and he said some of the things were the time I spent with students and the extra time I spent outside of class on special projects like field trips.

"I'm a very student-oriented instructor and I do everything I can to help them (the students) succeed. I think the committee recognized this effort."

"I like to help students succeed and to achieve their goals," he says. "I think my classroom organization's good, especially considering the size of my classes. (His biology classes run anywhere from 100-130 students.) I think I'm an effective lecturer. Most of the students I deal with aren't science majors and I look at this as a challenge to help them succeed and to prepare them for what they may have to go on to. I'm just using this for an example, but there's a big difference in teaching music to a room full of music majors and trying to teach a class where 95% of the students aren't majoring in what you're teaching, and are only taking it because it's required."

Meeks received his bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College and master's degree from East Tennessee University. "I felt really honored and gratified to be selected by my peers."

by Kassie Cassel and Juli Goldsmith

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IN MY OPINION

Some students wasting time, money instead of working hard

Tradition, excellence, notoriety, a fun-to-be-on campus; some students look for these things when choosing a college. However, some people place too much emphasis on the background of the college they or their children attend. More emphasis, I think, should be placed on how hard they should work when they get there.

Some people work hard doing manual labor to have a chance at higher education, so they should be careful in choosing the right college, but this can be carried overboard. It's not where a person goes, it is what they do when they get there.

This seems more prevalent in younger people. They come straight from high school, leaving their haven of protection, to the "real world." They have a tendency to be inexperienced in making decisions about handling money, budgeting time, and restricting themselves from the wicked ways of the world. They worry more about how nice their apartment or dorm room will be, what color their sports car will be, and if their clothes are expensive than they do about grades.

The value of a hard earned dollar is only learned one way. If these students could just better respect the memories of seeing their guardian or guardians of the past come home from work with a tired look on their face, grit on their hands, smelling like Happy Burger onions, or whatever, more would work harder in college.

Students whose guardian or guardians never worked, and never helped them, should even possess a bigger incentive to want to achieve, for fear of repeating history, and becoming a xerox copy. Elderly people say the apple never falls far from the tree. One thing's for sure, a falling apple from a weak tree better hit the ground rolling, because a strong wind might cause a disaster.

Everyone needs to reward themselves for study, but some students get hung up on the thrill of reward. A happy, but not too relaxed student performs better, so choosing is important, but working is more important. The Jamestown rule still applies in a more figurative but also literal sense; "If you don't work, you don't eat." The emphasis on choice has become a business itself. There are approximately 30 books in the library on this matter of choice, and colleges spend more money every year to promote their campus.

Westark, being a community college, enrolls a lot of students just out of high school who still live with their parents. Westark gives students a good service in my opinion, and in most opinions I have heard. It's cheaper. You have the option of getting a two-year degree if you feel that's all you need, or if a life change disrupts college for awhile.

Westark is self-paced, and instructors will take time with you. Westark's promotion slogan is "The Smart Choice." Anywhere that offers an experience as rewarding as the one I've had, for such a small price would be a smart choice. It is so self-paced I feel a bigger sense of accomplishment in my achievements.

My challenge to every student is not to quit driving sports cars and wearing expensive clothes, but just to work hard, remember where you came from, and not get so caught up in the material life that you flunk out or get in trouble.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student complains about IP option

Dear Editor,

Shouldn't an instructor offer a student the opportunity to take an IP if it is obvious the student has had to miss some work and classes at the end of the semester for health reasons, etc?

I got a D in a class because I had to go to the hospital the last three weeks of the semester. The instructor never mentioned to me that I could have taken an IP and finished when I recovered. I don't think that was fair. I thought instructors here prided themselves on helping students succeed.

This particular instructor told me I should have known about the IP option without him having to tell me.

P.M.

Parent suggests alternative to Child Development Center

Dear Editor,

Since the administration found it necessary to eliminate the child development center due to the lack of state funding, then I think there is an obvious alternative.

The college owns most of the property adjacent to campus, so why not let a day care center rent one of the properties and put a facility in for use by Westark parents.

If the college would consider a slightly reduced rent for the property, then maybe the day care center would consider a reduced rate for day care. Maybe even some of the current employees of the Westark center could work there.

If the day care was available for faculty and staff, then there would be no problem filling it up since the president said low enrollment was one of the reasons for his decision to shut down the CDC.

Sounds like a good solution for everybody involved. It also would show compassion on the part of the college administration.

Compassion, something that should still be more important than dollars.

R.L.

Watch for upcoming
summer issues of LP
June 27 and July 25.

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IN YOUR OPINION

Students explain reasons for summer enrollment increase

"It won't be long until Westark has a bigger headcount than my home town," says Jeffrey Smith, banking and finance major. Last year, the enrollment count for Summer I totaled 1,075, and this year brings a 30% increase totaling 1,404. Summer II already shows a 50% increase, and Summer III shows a 75% increase. There are students still registering.

Jeffrey explains that his hometown has a little over 5,000 people in it, which is the average population of an Arkansas town. Westark needs a 16% increase to break 5,000 students for the fall semester.

"Summer was once a time for college students to take a break from study. But now competition is too great, and students are starting to realize they need to get a head start. Summer classes are quicker, cheaper, and there is less time to get lazy by taking your eyes off of your goal," explains Sonya Dempsey, nursing major.

Different students attribute different reasons and causes for such an increase. Some offer their explanation in this poll, and all of them agree summer courses are beneficial, quicker, and smart.

by Stanley Sharp



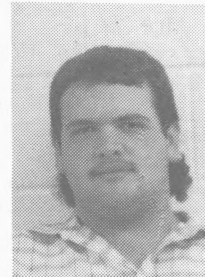
"Students from other colleges can complete their degrees cheaper, and faster. They are in a hurry to get out in the real world working," says **Charlotte Lewis.**



"Summer school is fast and consistent, but you have to stay on it everyday. It is also better because it is a short term goal," says **Rasheeda Abdul-Khaliq.**



"Just because it is a smart choice," says **Kendra Morton.**



"It's quicker credits, and the time goes by a lot quicker," says **Will Powers.**



"It is because of the push in education. I think more returning Westark students are taking advantage, rather than high school graduates wanting a head start," says **Todd Glass.**



"The word has spread how convenient this college is. It really saves a lot of class time that working people need," says **Joy Barnes.**

LION PRIDE

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Baseball season ends at regionals

The baseball Lions wrapped up regional tournament action and their season by dropping two games and winning one in the double elimination format.

The Lions lost the second game in which Andy Menard, David Christenberry, Mike Simmons, and Jamie Scroggins pitched. The Lions held a 3-2 lead through most of the game. Then in the fifth inning, the Lions gave up eight runs to lose 11-3. On the brighter side of the fifth, Marc Denson homered to make it 3-3, but Seminole got the better end of the fifth.

In the second game of the tourney, the Lions faced Carl Albert and won 9-4. Jim Wiley pitched the win and added a home run. David Williams relieved Jim.

The Lions opened tournament play with Western Oklahoma State. After rain delays, the Lions lost the game 3-0. Bo Siberz pitched to start, then Jamie Scroggins relieved him.

In regular season action leading up to post season play, the baseball Lions swept a doubleheader from Bacone

on April 22. Jim Wiley got the win in the first game with help from Phillip Ward and Eddie Lee on home runs. The first game found the Lions winning 9-5.

In the second game, Wiley hit two home runs to help the Lions win 15-7. Kevin Ervin also contributed with a home run in the win. Bo Siberz got the win to up his mark to 7-2.

April 25 found the Lions sweeping Eastern in a doubleheader, 11-7 and 5-3. David Williams won the first game and Jim Wiley hit a double and one home run going 4-5. Marc Denson contributed with a homer. Andy Menard won the second game 5-3.

April 26 found the Lions sweeping a doubleheader with Northark. P.T. Plunkett pitched the win and Jim Wiley hit a two-run homer in the 10-6 win.

Jeff Cooper got the win in the second game 3-0. Jim saved both games raising his total to three saves. Both P.T. and Jeff have a 2-0 mark on the season.

The Lions wrapped up the regular

season play on May 6 with a doubleheader. The game had conference tourney standings in the making for the winner and loser.

The Connors State Cowboys won the first game 8-4, thanks to a four-run seventh inning rally. Jim Wiley took the loss in the first game. The Lions lost the second game 14-5.

"We had a good season," says freshman Hays Lemley, "You cannot

be satisfied, once you're satisfied you're in trouble."

WCC ended the regular season 34-14 overall finishing third in the Bi-State East Conference.

"We had a good season, but it could have been better. You can always improve," says Coach Crowder. "We'll take 35-16 any day."

By Chuck Newman



Baseball Lions check out the competition from the sidelines. (photo by Stan Sharp)



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Three Northside athletes join latest list of recruits

The basketball Lions signed Jonathan "Binky" Triplett, a Northside standout and All-State player.

Jonathan was a three-year starter for Northside. As a junior, he averaged 17 points per game as well as 6.6 rebounds per game. "Binky's" senior year saw him average 18.9 points and 7 rebounds per game.

The Lady Lions signed Northside standout Kathy Wilson. She averaged 16 points and eight assists per game

for the Grizzlies.

The Baseball Lions signed former starting quarterback Jay Richardson from Northside. While Jay led the Grizzlies to three state football playoffs, he says baseball is his main sport.

"I wanted to go somewhere where I would get a chance to play and Coach Crowder is giving me that chance," says Richardson.

by Chuck Newman

Basketball camps attract area youth to campus

Once again this year the coaches and players are hosting summer basketball camps for area youth. "We'll have Coach Sadler and myself along with our players," says Coach Bobby Vint.

The youngsters come from miles and to try and improve themselves on the Lion court. The camp has 20 sessions for ages 12-18 or grades 7-12. The camp will run from July 12 through August 11. The cost of the camp is \$55 per player.

Along with Coach Vint and Sadler, Lady Lions Coach Louis Whorton will help with the camp.

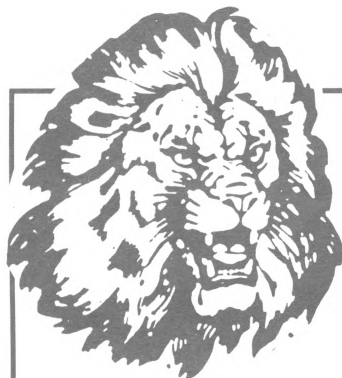
The camp, which classifies the part-

icipants by age, provides individual instruction in all fundamental phases of basketball including defense, rebounding, shooting, ball handling, and passing. There will be scrimmage games as well as drills and film sessions. The camp stresses the development of leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship.

The campers will receive t-shirts. Plaques and individual trophies will be awarded in various phases of the game.

"Some area coaches will be there, too" adds Vint.

by Chuck Newman



TEAM CAMPS

June 12 - 16
6 - 9 p.m.
(grades 7 - 9)

July 17 - 21
6 - 9 p.m.
(Grades 10 - 12)

INDIVIDUAL CAMPS

June 19 - 23
8 - 11 a.m.
(Grades 4 - 6)
1 - 4 p.m.
(Grades 7 - 9)

July 31 - Aug. 4
8 - 11 a.m.
(Grades 4 - 6)
1 - 4 p.m.
(Grades 7 - 9)

Aug. 7 - 11
8 - 11 a.m.
(Grades 4-6)
1 - 4 p.m.
(Grades 7 - 9)

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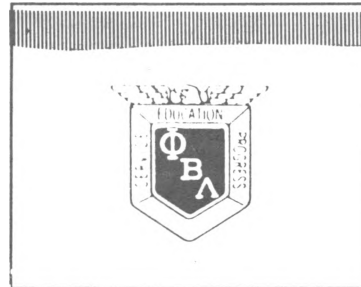
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PBL earns Silver Chapter award in state competition



The business students club, Phi Beta Lambda, won a Silver Chapter Award for its overall accomplishments, along with several others awards, at the 27th annual PBL State Leadership Conference at Little Rock.

PBL won first place in local recruitment, second place in two-year and propriety divisions for scrapbook, second place in two-year and propriety divisions for largest local chapter membership, and second

place in two-year division for local chapter's annual business report.

The club also won second place in the Arkansas Sweepstakes in the two-year division and received a certificate for the group's fund raising for Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Debra Cheek won first place for a report written for community service projects. Vicki Larru won first place in bookkeeping. Kim Blythe placed second in business principles. Marti Panikkar was named to Who's Who in PBL in Arkansas.

Joe Gossett was elected state vice president of PBL. Both Joe and Kim will attend the national PBL conference in Orlando, Florida this summer. Joe will attend as the state representative and Kim will compete in the national competition.

Business instructors Dr. Bill Lacewell, Sharon Winn and David Craig serve as sponsors of the club.

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GM courses save time, money

"When a new course is developed, Chevrolet Motor Division requests we send a technician to it. We must go to Memphis unless the course is offered at a closer Vo-Tech school such as those in Little Rock or Hot Springs. Westark is the most convenient location for our mechanics to attend," says Buck Rogers, vice president of Buddy Rogers Chevrolet Company located in Waldron, in a letter to Dr. Lee Mynatt, division chairman of technology.

The letter regards the continued offering of General Motors (GM) classes at Westark. GM sanctions classes given through Westark and those who take them get the same credit as though they took it from a GM Center in Oklahoma City or Memphis. The latest offering came in the form of EFI/PFI Fuel Injection, which ran March 6-22.

"It's an appreciable cost savings over sending mechanics to Memphis or to Oklahoma City," says Mynatt. "We're extremely pleased with the response we've had in these classes. It's been a big benefit not only for the dealers and independent shops, but also for students enrolled in regular classes, because their instructors take these and they pass the information on in their regular classes."

Other types of automotive training possibly lurk in the future. "We're in the process of developing new and additional classes through GM and investigating providing update training for automotive models other than GM. Also in Summer I, we're offering a GM class in Specialized Electronics Training. (The four-week class runs May 8-June 1, on Monday through Thursday nights from 6:30 to 10 p.m.)."

Other GM classes receive good response, also. "We just finished a computer command control class in February. We took a student evaluation and I was very pleased with the results. The class was full to the maximum with a wide variety of students who work for dealers and independent shops both.

"Westark's a permanent outlet for classes sanctioned through GM. Students can get the same credit for these classes as if they took them through the training center. It opens up an opportunity for people in independent shops who normally wouldn't have access to these classes. Our GM contacts in both Oklahoma City and Memphis are extremely supportive," concludes Mynatt.

by Kassie Cassel

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