The new Campus Center, still under-construction, is set to open next month. The 84-thousand square feet building is set up primarily for student use. “Our objective in designing the new center was to have a place for students to use recreationally,” said Stacey Jones, associate dean, “there will be no classes in the building.”

The Campus Center is primarily funded by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, which also funded the Bell Tower.

The area outside the east end of the building will be designated for handicap parking, other parking will also be available along the north end. In addition, there will be a covered drive-through on the west side and large covered patio along the south side. “Outside on the porch there are plans to set-up patio furniture for students,” Jones added, “everything downstairs is set up for the enjoyment and comfort of the students.”

The doors on the east end lead into the foyer which features a two-sided fire-place, ample seating, and television area. Opposite the fireplace will be the bookstore. It will have the same books and merchandise that it has now and will include a convenience store and copy center. “We’ll have a bigger selection of snacks and drinks than we do now and I’m thinking of putting in some groceries, like milk and bread, but that isn’t for sure yet,” said Mike Hendricks, bookstore manager. The floor plan in the bookstore will enable new books to be kept separate from used books, making it less confusing for students during book buy back.

Another highlight of the Campus Center is the food court set up similar to those in most malls. Various types of food will be served such as pizza, soup, and salad in addition to traditional food such as hamburgers and fries. Sunset Strips will serve such food as chicken strips and popcorn chicken which will be provided by Tyson. The Jump Program, an in-house franchise, will be brought in to serve Oriental food. “The amount of seating at the new eating area will be about the same,” said Barbara Lamblin, director of food services, “but it will be laid out a little differently, it will be more inviting for the students.”

One of the largest rooms in the building is the “Multi-purpose Room”. It can be used for a large banquet dinner, a theater to show a
Parking Complaints Disparaged
Exploring the Parking Situation at Westark College

Aaron Nipper
Staff Writer

There has been an interesting phenomenon happening around campus during these first weeks of fall. Any student leaving between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. might notice the bizarre event. Drivers are mysteriously following walkers around in the parking lots. They are following very closely, but don’t worry, they aren’t going to follow you home. They just want your parking place.

Parking has been a hot topic on campus and most people are not smiling, but don’t worry, bad parking is good for you.

There are some real reasons why the parking situation has been tough lately. The big reason for the peak hour parking problem is a surge in growth. Westark had about a 10.6 percent hike in enrollment this year, which makes it one of the largest enrollment jumps in Westark College history.

This year’s student body is also the largest to date with better than 5700 students enrolled. These new highs can most likely be attributed to the excitement and publicity created by the recent Westark / U of A. If the enrollment is a positive reaction from area residents about the merger, then it’s good news for everyone on campus looking to the future.

The physical growth of the campus is also contributing to the fight for parking space.

The completion of the Campus Center and Convocation Center ran behind schedule because of bad weather last winter. The construction of the Campus Center has taken up parking that was available in previous years. New parking was built to accommodate for this, so when the Campus Center is completed some parking on the west side of campus will be regained.

Parking around school is a priority for the campus planners who direct expansion of the campus’s facilities. They monitor the issue by going out at different times of day to see what is going on and to find future opportunities to make student life easier.

They have also published pamphlets on the virtues of arriving early and using the less crowded lots. First year students may remember those pamphlets from freshman orientation.

So don’t freak out, because as the year goes on new spots will become available and new students will get savvy about places to park. Right now people may have to park out of the way and walk a little further than expected, but it’s good exercise. Also, the campus strolls give people a chance to bump into each other more often which promotes a sense of student community.

Those still determined to look at the down side might think about the fact that at most colleges, such as U of A at Fayetteville, students have to pay for the privilege of looking for a parking spot and then often walk great distances anyway. The ones who can’t pay usually have to park in another part of town and catch a bus to campus.
The day began as any other stressed-out college student’s day.

I was talking to a friend at school about 7:50 a.m. in front of the Math/Science Building when it happened, but of course, I didn’t know that it had happened yet. On my way out of the building I heard the news, by the time I got to my next class, ten minutes later, I had gotten most of the story. One of the greatest landmarks of our time, dedicated to the establishment of capitalism and another great structure dedicated to Imperialism had both been attacked.

The capitalist structure had completely fallen down due to the intense heat of the fire, weakening the great steel beams holding it up. The other burned throughout the day. The amount of destruction, or even the attack itself, did not shock me. The military target is regrettable but tactical. The only part that really got to me was the destruction of so many civilians. I cannot understand how so many non-military targets can be forsaken like that.

As I looked upon the scene in the student union, I noticed for the first time in two years that all was quiet tension. Looking at the faces of people I had never met and some I know well, trying to cope with this unprecedented attack on American soil was a true test of my patience. I wanted to scream at someone, anyone, to release the anger inside. I do not often agree with our lifestyle in this country or our ways of dealing with domestic or foreign problems, but I can’t get over all of those innocent people at work, walking down the street, buying a hot dog from a street vendor or even on vacations with their children; their lives snuffed out like they didn’t matter. It does matter.

We have to stop and think about how we deal with the world around us. We have to stop and think before interfering in other nations’ policies. We have to stop and think before we send our soldiers out to make the world “safe for democracy” when we don’t take very good care of our own people. We always hear about all of the starving children in India or Africa and our faces turn to masks of grief. When the average person sees a homeless starving person in their own city they often try to blame it on the homeless person. “He must be an alcoholic or a degenerate. Otherwise, how could he be living like that in a country that has it all?”

The key point to remember is that the country may have it all but so many have nothing. We spend billions on other countries and billions on space travel yet we can’t find the money or the people to do something about our own domestic troubles. Our domestic troubles have now increased in major proportions because of this tragedy. Many children have parents dead and many parents lost children. They will never find them the way they remember them.

Our lives need to change. We need to take care of one another before rushing off to save the world. The seeds of our policies have reaped bitter fruit. I hope the country can wake up to realize that the fields must be laid bare and new seeds sewn for the times ahead.

Adam Hudson,  
Vice President, W.H.O.
Final weeks of Construction in Progress - cont. from pg. 1

concert or an educational program, or it can be divided into five different rooms using dividers. Each room is equipped with a television and wired to receive programs simultaneously. The hallway outside of the room has skylights built into the ceiling that shine natural light in on the wall. The plan is to use the wall as a forum for exhibits, such as paintings.

The only place in the building where students are not allowed is the board room. "This room was constructed so that the board will have a nice place to hold their meetings and meet with visitors," noted Stacey Jones.

Additional rooms will host office space for student organizations with a shared file room to keep organizational records. There will be a group study lounge and a commuter lounge equipped with lockers and a microwave. Other areas are set up for freshman seminar and orientation.

The second floor, topped by the giant dome, will include the financial and academic offices and registration area, much like the second floor of Fullerton Union is set up now. "We just want to make sure that students are using this building. It's for them," said Jones, "I want students to be able to check out a latop computer sit somewhere comfortable and check e-mail or type papers and feel like they have a place to go."

Westark Co-Hosts Naturalization Ceremony

Stacey Jones, associate dean, points toward the doorway leading into the rear of the new bookstore which is located in the Campus Center.

Staff Reports

Breendlove Auditorium was the site where over 100 men and women attained U.S. citizenship. Westark College in partnership with the Fort Smith Multicultural Center held a ceremony Thursday, September 20, at 10 a.m.

Westark President, Joel R. Stubblefield, gave the address. U.S. Judge Robert T. Dawson provided the opening and closing remarks during the presentation. Charles M. Brotton, district adjudications officer for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, presented those who applied for citizenship. Kelley Etchieson, deputy clerk of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas, lead the oath of allegiance.

Northside High School ROTC took part by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Color Guard Presentation. Westark instructor Don Bailey performed the national anthem, "God Bless America", and "Amazing Grace".

Daniel Maher, Westark instructor and director of the Fort Smith Multicultural Center, presented the American's Creed, according to Westark College Website.

Ushers included members from Phi Theta Kappa and Westark Honors Organization.

Upcoming Community Events

Sept. 20 - 29 Live Theater
Those Crazy Ladies in the House on the Corner
Fort Smith Little Theatre (501)783-2966

Sept. 21 - 29 State Fair
Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair
Kay Rogers State Park

Sept. 22 Fundraiser
Memory Walk 2001 8 a.m. Ben Geren Park (501)783-2022

Sept. 22 - 23 Astronomy Club
Tenkiller State Park Star Party 8 - 10 p.m. Tenkiller State Park Vian, Okla. (918)489-5641

Sept. 28 - 30 Arts & Crafts Festival
38th Annual Weinfest at Wiederkehr Village
$25 Wiederkehr Wine Cellars Inc. Altus, Ark. (800)622-WINE

Sept. 29 - 30 Wine Festival
38th Annual Weinfest at Wiederkehr Village
$25 Wiederkehr Wine Cellars Inc. Altus, Ark. (800)622-WINE

Sept. 29 - 30 POWOW
American Indian Student Association POWOW 2 - 11 p.m.
Thompson Fitness Center, CASC Poteau, Ok.
Westark Enrollment Increases

Sondra LaMar,
Director of Public Information and Community Relations

Westark College officials are reporting an 8.5 percent increase in headcount enrollment from last fall to this fall, an increase officials say is directly related to Westark’s change to a four-year university and merger into the University of Arkansas System.

The official 11th day headcount enrollment at Westark is 5,743, compared to a headcount last fall of 5,293. In addition, there is a 10.8 percent increase in FTE enrollment. FTE stands for full-time equivalent and represents the total hours taken by all students (full- and part-time), divided by the full-time load of 15 hours. FTE last fall was 3,133. This fall’s FTE number is 3,470.

Ken Pyle, dean of student and academic support services, said big gains can be seen in several places. “We have a 10.6 percent increase in bachelor’s degree track students,” Pyle said, “which is directly related to Westark’s move to a four-year university status. Faculty are reporting that students are excited about our change to a university and that students have arrived more serious about their studies.”

“I keep saying the word ‘excited,’ but students really are excited and enthused about the opportunities they will have at University of Arkansas Fort Smith to obtain bachelor’s degrees, to live here, and to raise families here.”

There was also another high area, an almost 50 percent increase in entering transfer students, from 243 last year to 358 this year. This category measures those students who have credits from another college or university and are transferring to Westark to complete their degrees.

The full-time student category also saw an increase, up 13.3 percent from last fall. Web class enrollment took a jump as well, from 298 last fall to 685 this fall. The category of first-time entering students was also up by 14.4 percent, from 1,008 last year to 1,153 this year.

Scott McDonald, director of admissions, said he had been hearing many positive comments while out recruiting in area high schools. “The recurring theme I keep hearing is the fact that high school counselors and students are pleased that we will have more opportunities for degree offerings here,” McDonald said.

The fact that Westark plans to implement a two-tier tuition base was also a topic among high school counselors and students. Westark tuition starting in January will maintain the current lower tuition for the first two years, with a higher rate for junior- and senior-level courses that will be among the lowest in the state.

“People are glad to hear that students will still be able to enroll in one- and two-year programs at Westark, and that no present Westark programs were going away,” he said.

Westark College officially becomes University of Arkansas Fort Smith on Jan. 1.

Article from Westark News website posted September 7.

Westark Dance Team Selected for Upcoming Season

Kim Mainer
Editor

After four rounds of tryouts, dancers were selected for the school year. The tryouts were judged by Melissa Ricketts; sponsor, coach, and choreographer for the team. The final tryout was held Sept. 9, in Breedlove Auditorium and attracted more participants than the previous three combined. “This is my second year to coach and this is the most interest I’ve had yet,” stated Ricketts.

The troupe’s primary function is performing during halftime and time-outs at home basketball games, but they are hoping to include baseball games and dance competitions in their schedule this year. “Everyone is really motivated this year and with a group like this we’ll achieve what we want,” said Ashlee Dunahoo, freshman dance team member. Returning sophomores Holly Martin, Robyn Weisenfels, and Lori Maestri, were named team officers. As officers, the girls help Ricketts to maintain discipline, teach choreography, and recruit members. Dance practices are held twice weekly lasting two hours each. “We learn an entire, new dance in one practice” explained Lauren Glensky, freshman member, “each dance lasts from two to three minutes.”

The entire squad performs during each time-out, but the halftime show performance is composed of only 10 to 12 dancers. The girls must try out each week for a spot. The first scheduled performance will be at the first home basketball game, Nov. 6, and the dancers will have learned 10 routines by then. “It takes a lot of hard work and they work hard to make it look easy,” said Ricketts.

Melissa Ricketts, team sponsor, teaches choreography to participants for tryouts on stage in Breedlove Auditorium September 9. Photo by Kim Mainer

Be at the Bell Tower

Join us Tuesday, September 25, at 12 p.m. for a unity-promoting "support fair"

Healing the Community

The gathering is sponsored by Honor students, leaders of student organizations, instructors, and community members to reach out a hand where support is needed in the community and EVERYONE is welcome to join us and offer suggestions

Key note speaker topic: Grief

for more info direct e-mail to: krhode00@pipeline
Big Apple Hit in Terrorist Attack

Cassie Davis
Staff Writer

Students at Westark looked on, via television, as two Boeing aircraft, a 767 and a 757 crashed into the World Trade Center Towers. As the White House was being evacuated, the Pentagon was hit by a third commercial plane. As America watched, the South Tower of the World Trade Center plummeted to the streets followed by the North Tower only twenty-three minutes later.

As students in Fullerton watched this on television, the mood changed from social to somber in a matter of seconds. “Everyone just seemed to be kind of overwhelmed with the visuals of the buildings coming down and fire and destruction,” stated Ken Pyle, dean of academic and student support, “and you know there were people dying at that moment. It’s pretty horrific.” More students packed into the cafeteria to watch the events unfold, while outside the flags were lowered to half-staff in honor of the victims.

President George W. Bush stated in his address to the nation, “These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong. A great people have been moved to defend a great nation.”

Many businesses and schools were closed Wednesday in response to the events, however Westark administrators decided to keep the school open.

“We believe unless there is a threat to this campus, we are not going to be incapacitated by terrorist threats. We are moving on with the life of the campus, so we kept the campus open,” noted Pyle.

Some students on campus compared the terrorist attack on New York to the bombing of Pearl Harbour.

“After Japanese Americans were placed in internment camps, we realized what we had done,” stated Alisa Bond, honor student, “I pray we don’t revisit that, and because of this crisis, treat those that seem to be Middle Eastern or are Middle Eastern with the same respect.”

Various organizations are planning support rallies, assembling volunteer groups, and holding discussions in attempt to assist one another.

“It’s a very personal thing and a very monumental tragedy for the country,” stated Dean Pyle, “and I hope there is a way we can move forward from here.”

Watching and Waiting

Margot E. Kaminski
Harvard Crimson

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — I can hear the phone ringing on the other end of the line. Two times, three times—the ringing stops, replaced by that interminable beeping some soft, almost tangible distance away from my anxious ear. Circuits busy. Again.

I, like the majority of the population of New York City, New York State, America, the world, have spent the last 24 hours of my life stranded in some sort of inescapable state of emotional limbo. I can’t drop myself in further for fear of drowning, and I certainly can’t pull myself out, for fear of losing my humanity. Surrounded by repeated images, discussions, accusations, threats, curses, and the whizzing of fighter jets overhead, I fluctuate between solitary disbelief and solitary horror. For although I have never felt more communally connected to my fellow New Yorkers, I have also never felt quite so stranded, helpless, alone. All I can think to care about at this precise moment, all I can think to listen for over the drone of the newscaster’s voice citing a death toll in the thousands, is the slight click on the other end of that damn phone, the slight catch before an intake of breath, and the sound of my mother, father or brother’s voice.

It’s like having both my hands cut off. Or a piece of flesh extracted from under my ribcage. I would give blood, but the hospitals are overwhelmed; I would volunteer, but what good can an untrained teen do while stranded in Massachusetts? Powerless to do anything, powerless to say anything, the only thing left to do is to wait. And to watch: those images, over and over, from one angle then another, from below, from above, from the street corners on which I’ve stood and the restaurants at which I’ve eaten. The descriptions of all possible aspects of the disaster, the footage of survivors crouched behind cars and coated in white soot (while the newscaster babbles on about the symbolism of “American Capitalism Under Attack”—a real movie title, isn’t it?), and the endless screaming photos on the front page of each newspaper, photos of my home city swallowed by a cloud of dust. Each image hammered home to that empty gasping place somewhere below my heart.

I eat. I drink. I breathe. I even manage a few laughs here and there, a few moments of happy oblivion. Routine is what we use to keep our minds from overtaking us. Forget talk—it trivializes. Forget silence—it magnifies. Only routine—the calmness of physical denial, the okay-ness of everyday motions—reclaims for me the repetition that is normality. Yes, my family is fine. I am one of the lucky ones. I finally heard from them Tuesday afternoon, after hours of attempting contact. But the strange thing to me, the unexpected connection between the personal and national tragedies resulting from this event, is that even now that waiting feeling remains. Even after the personal reassurance has set in, even after the e-mails, the phone calls, the confirmation that my family is safe, even now I’m stuck on the edge of my seat balanced between fear and disbelief.

Friends have asked me if I’m angry. Why, because the vivacious teeming city in which I grew up is changed forever? Because my brother couldn’t sleep Tuesday night because of the sound of fighter jets overhead? It is so tempting to be angry. But to let our anger overwhelm us, to let it manifest itself in hate and organizations—that is to let these cowards win.

“After Japanese Americans were placed in internment camps, we realized what we had done,” stated Alisa Bond, honor student, “I pray we don’t revisit that, and because of this crisis, treat those that seem to be Middle Eastern or are Middle Eastern with the same respect.”

Various organizations are planning support rallies, assembling volunteer groups, and holding discussions in attempt to assist one another.

“It’s a very personal thing and a very monumental tragedy for the country,” stated Dean Pyle, “and I hope there is a way we can move forward from here.”
Hijackers Were Trained to fly in U.S.

Death toll still a mystery

Anne Marie Tavella
Daily Egyptian

(U-WIRE) CARBONDALE, Ill. — Hijackers used knives, made from shaving supplies and razor blades, and bomb threats to take control of the four planes used in Tuesday’s terrorist attack, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft said during a press conference Wednesday afternoon. Each plane had between three to six hijackers on board, some of whom were trained as pilots in the United States, Ashcroft said.

Two of the hijacked planes toppled the World Trade Center’s twin towers Tuesday morning. Forty minutes later a third plane crashed into the Pentagon, causing part of the building to collapse. The fourth plane later crashed in Pennsylvania, killing all on board. A total of 266 people died aboard the four planes.

In a press conference preceding Ashcroft’s, FBI Director Robert Mueller said the hijackers have been identified, but he did not release their names. Several people in Boston and south Florida have been taken into custody by the FBI, but no arrests have been made.

The FBI has received hundreds of leads, but said it is too early to draw conclusions on who was behind the attacks.

“We will leave no stone unturned to find those responsible for the tragedies,” Mueller said.

President George W. Bush addressed the nation mid-morning and said the government was operating on a heightened security alert. He said the attacks were not just against the country, but against freedom and democracy.

Air Force One was also a target of the attacks, said a spokesman for President Bush’s National Security Council. The White House said that is why the president did not immediately return to Washington after leaving Florida following the initial attack, opting to first stop at Air Force Bases in Louisiana and Nebraska. Air Force One, a Boeing 747, was escorting by military fighter jets while in flight. Although the Federal Aviation Administration did not lift the no-flights ban at noon Wednesday as first announced, by mid-afternoon flights that were diverted were authorized to finish their journeys. Only passengers originally on the flight were able to reboard. All other flights are still grounded.

According to officials at Boston’s Logan International Airport, where two of the planes were hijacked, the FAA is requiring all airports to ban the sale or use of knives, even ones made of plastic, stop all curbside check-ins, and increase other security measures.

In Washington, the death toll at the Pentagon is estimated to be between 100 and 800 people. The White House said Wednesday the plane that crashed into the Pentagon may have originally been intended for the White House.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said Wednesday that he expects the death toll to be high, reaching into the thousands. As of press time here were 41 found dead in New York, with 260 police and firefighters missing. Nine survivors have been found in the rubble, six firefighters and three police officers.

In the aftermath of the attacks that shook Manhattan as the World Trade Center’s twin towers crashed to the ground, the city that never sleeps went silent.

Tuesday morning Peter Carroll, an assistant professor in physical education, eagerly awaited word from his daughter, Sandi, who works about a half mile away from the towers.

At 9:28 a.m. (central time) Carroll received an e-mail from Sandi saying the phones were down. She wrote she was unharmed, but afraid to leave her office building.

“No we must know what it feels like to live in the Middle East,” Sandi wrote. “I don’t even know if I can walk home.”

Throughout the day Carroll received e-mails from Sandi, updating him on her status. Later in the day she was able to walk home, stopping at a blood bank along the way and waiting an hour and half to give blood.

In one message to her father Sandi wrote: “Manhattan is silent except for the sound of sirens and church bells.”

Marni L.R. Lane, a hospital worker from New Rochelle, NY., saw the melee after the attacks and silence of the following day. She said the day after the attack was just as surreal as the day it happened. “When you walk through those streets, you would not believe you were in New York,” Lane said.

The silence was broken Wednesday when the final stories of the World Trade Center tower crumpled. She is so used to seeing the towers every day on her trip to work, that the realization that they are gone is still sinking in, she said.

“When I walked down the street to catch my train, the World Trade Center was one of my landmarks. Now when I pass by, it’s just not there,” Lane said.

“Now all I see is rubble and it makes my skin crawl.”

Lane works in Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital on 64th Street, 30 blocks away from the attack. Her brother, Felix, worked in the World Trade Center in the general area where the second plane hit. Lane said she had to concentrate on her work to fight the fear of her brother’s well-being.

“I shut down my emotions,” Lane said. “I basically had to tear myself away. I got myself busy for what was to come.”

During the day, Lane received a phone call from her sister saying Felix came down with a cold and called in sick that morning. Lane said when she heard, she couldn’t control her emotions.

“I was crying tears of joy,” Lane said. “His guardian angel was working with him.”

The hospital where Lane works only received patients with minor injuries like cuts and scrapes. Other emergency rooms in the city treated more than 1,500 people. Lane said all of the hospitals in the city braced for the worst. “From what I gathered, they are preparing the morgues,” Lane said.

Codell Rodriguez contributed to this story.
The sun was shining and the Campus Green was primed with students September 7, at the annual All-Campus Picnic, sponsored by the Student Activities Council.

“I think that it’s good that the deans and provosts are part of the social events and not just sitting in their offices,” commented Traci Evans, English/secondary education major.

“We just want to provide good food, fun, and fellowship,” stated Stacey Jones, associate dean, “it’s a good opportunity to get out and meet some people on campus.” There were around 800 students on the lawn throughout the day. The Sherman Robertson Band provided entertainment which was sponsored by Riverfront Blues Society. Fred Baker from KISR 93.7 FM was on hand to emcee the event.

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry provided games for students to play including an inflatable slide, a Velcro chair, and a boxing ring with inflatable gloves.

The SAC plans to provide similar events throughout the year and students are welcome to attend planning meetings held each Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Fullerton Union Board Room. Students become voting members after attending two meetings.