

# Video Editing Easier with Computers

**Chris Hoffman**  
**Staff Writer**

Westminster's information technology department has added two high-end multimedia editing computers to the library's Information Commons.

A growing number of classes have been assigning students to author videos with no place on campus to do so. Students were expected to somehow find video editing resources on their own.

Now users can sign up for two-hour blocks of time to import, edit and output their videos in the library. The systems are capable of accommodating all levels of video editing expertise, from the novice who just wants a quick clip to show in class, to the George Lucas of the future who wants to use Pinnacle's blue screen technology to place himself on the moon.

The machines feature the professional video editing suite Pinnacle Liquid Pro, a fully featured broadcast quality editor. Liquid Pro includes thousands of 2D and 3D real-time effects, native timeline-based DVD authoring, broadcast quality title generation, InstantSave technology so work is never lost and background real-time rendering.

On the hardware side the computers are some of the most powerful user systems on campus. Each machine sports a 3.2 Gigahertz Intel HT processor, 19-inch LCD screen monitor, 250 Gigabyte hard-drive, one gigabyte of RAM, a combo DVD +R/-R recorder and a Radeon 9600 brand video card.

Users can import from many different formats. Digital camcorder users can have their videos downloaded through the integrated FireWire (IEEE-1394) connection. Those with older camcorders have the option of connecting through either RCA or S-Video inputs. A combo DVD/VCR is also connected to capture video from those sources.

Instructions and tutorials can be checked out from the library. Included in the check-out are the user's manual, a pair of headphones and a microphone for creating voice-overs.

Because video editing requires almost all of a computer's resources these systems do not have any of the other software commonly found on other campus machines, such as the Microsoft office suite. They are still connected to the Internet so users will be able to access network files through Internet Explorer's File Transfer Protocol (FTP) or through Westminster College's Web portal.

Library and lab staff will have some training on the software, but the best way to learn is to come in to the library and actually use the software. So get out those camcorders, and dust off a space on the mantle for that Academy Award.