

OPINION & NEWS

Viewpoint: Let's Expand Hours at Internet Café

By Alyson Matarazzo
Senior Staff Writer

Everyone is aware of the Internet Café attached to the campus library. Most are aware of the hours and options provided for the students, faculty, and staff by this establishment. For those of you who are unsure, don't remember, or didn't care, the hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding final exam period). I cannot say that I'm happy with the way the Internet Café is run and through some interviews, I've concluded that other students feel the same. We agree that the hours of operation, as well as the product, do not meet the students' needs.

Classes start at 8 a.m. so students with the earliest class are unable to reap the benefits of having, basically, a coffee shop in the building next to where they will have classes. The Internet Café hours should complement the main cafeteria and the class schedules. Some students need caffeine in the mornings to function. Since we're not allowed to have coffee makers in our dorm rooms, students are either late to class or leave class for a few minutes to stand in line to get coffee.

What about the students who stay up late working on homework, papers, and research? The Internet Café closes at 2 p.m., yet the library stays open until midnight Sunday through Thursday.

Danyelle Rube is a junior, an athlete, an R.A., a sorority member, and an officer in the Psychology Club. She spends at

least two hours in the library three nights a week. Ashley Marks is a senior, an athlete, and an R.A. When she goes to the library, it's for at least five hours at a time. Cassie Goodenough is a junior and an R.A., who spends an average of four hours in the library two days a week. These women are only three of many students who spend hours at night in the library, catching up or getting ahead in their classes.

Rube drives to Sheetz to get coffee and snacks; and Goodenough drives to Sheetz to get coffee and snacks if she doesn't have supplies in her room. Marks doesn't drive anywhere to get supplies. If she doesn't have stock in her room, she goes without.

There seems to be a large crowd of students who want Sodexo to change the business hours of Internet Café.

Sodexo used to have the grill open between lunch and dinner for those students who were unable to go to lunch in the cafeteria. Now, the grill is only open at night and the Internet Café closes a half hour after the cafeteria closes at 1:30. If students want or need food after this time, they're forced to rummage around their room or leave campus.

Junior Megan Zimmerman visits the library an average of 2.5 hours two days

a week—sometimes more often. While she doesn't always crave that caffeine kick at night, the prospect of coffee would draw her into the Internet Café on nights that she does. But she cannot buy anything if the café is not open.

In previous semesters the Internet Café carried breakfast food. "I liked when there were the microwavable biscuits (along with) chips and candy bars," Zimmerman said. Once again, she is another student who rides to Sheetz for her late-night provisions.

Sophomore Connor Wright is president of her sorority, someone with her finger on the pulse of Wesleyan's campus. She spends an average of three hours at night in the library three days a week doing homework. I've never seen Wright without candy but she cannot buy it here on campus. She drives over to Sheetz for her coffee and candy to sustain her through her long hours in the library. She likes the Internet Café's "iced caramel macchiato," but wishes she could buy one at night.

Kayla Nall, a transfer student, keeps busy with classes, a work-study job, and taekwondo classes. She spends about 2.5 hours at night in the library, at least two days a week. She likes that "the

coffee is consistent and the quality is like Starbucks." But when she needs a caffeine boost in the evening, she heads over to Sheetz or gets an iced coffee from McDonald's. Nall isn't happy that the café is closed when she needs her "late afternoon caffeine or snack."

Wright and Goodenough share Zimmerman's disappointment about the lack of chips and candy sold in the Internet Café.

Marks likes the baked goods offered early in the day: "Their baked food is the best," and her favorite is the raspberry scone. But she laments that the baked goods are not available at night.

It's not just the lack of food and coffee at night, although this was most prominent in students' minds. Marks mentioned that when she goes to the Internet Café earlier in the day, there is little to nothing left for lunch. In my experience, if students go any time after noon, there are only drinks available—if we're lucky.

What's more, the café doesn't always carry sandwiches that all the students like. Sometimes they make wraps—not everyone likes wraps—and sometimes they make ham and cheddar cheese sandwiches—not everyone likes ham or cheddar—and still other times they make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches—some students cannot eat peanut butter.

Students seem to understand that the Internet Café cannot have the infinite amount of food they are able to get at the main cafeteria, but the fact remains that students are not being satisfied. There have even been days when the café has run out of bottled water.

The quality of the food isn't being questioned. It's the quantity of food that concerns students, not to mention the limited hours.

Everyone seems to agree that the Internet Café should be re-opened for a few hours at night but there are various opinions on times.

Rube and Marks want the café to "re-open from 8 to 12." Goodenough: 7 to 11. Wright: 8 to 10. Zimmerman: 7 to 9:30.

Nall isn't too worried about exact times of the Internet Café re-opening, so long as it does re-open.

She's more concerned with the hour it closes in the afternoon. She'd like to have the opportunity to get her coffee before her class and work-study job.

Marks and Zimmerman would like the Internet Café to open before the 8 a.m. classes start—around 7:30—for students and faculty who need that caffeine buzz before learning or teaching.

If Sodexo wants to make money, it seems a good way is having someone in the Internet café early in the morning—7:30—and at night for a few hours—let's say between the hours of 7 and 10. This way, students can grab a cup of coffee before the earliest class and in the evening have dinner and then work in the library with the opportunity to buy candy to satisfy a late-night craving or coffee for a long night of studying.

Issue In-Focus: Legalization of Gay Marriage

At the present time, the Supreme Court is weighing arguments concerning gay marriage. Do you think gays should be allowed to wed in the U.S.?

KeCharna White

People fought for all types of rights in this country because the United States symbolizes freedom. Sometimes the U.S. contradicts what it stands for by making unfair laws that apply to certain groups of people. African-Americans fought for civil rights, women fought for women's rights and gays are fighting for their rights. I do not think that you should tell anyone who they can and cannot marry. Although gay marriage goes against Christian beliefs, it should be up to gay people to have a traditional marriage in a church. They might just want the marriage license. In my opinion, they should have the right to get that experience.

Rebecca Staylor

Gay marriage should be legalized in the United States. Everyone has a right to be married and love who they want to love. I have two lesbian aunts and I really don't see the harm in gay marriage. They are great role models. They work hard and love each other unconditionally, so what's the problem? My whole idea on gay marriage is you live your life, and I'll live mine, and we both will continue on our ways. I think one reason gay marriage is such a huge topic of discussion is because the common idea is "God doesn't want gay marriage." While this topic is supported over and over in countless sources, we should not throw stones at a glass house. What I mean is that God didn't want man and woman to have premarital sex, get divorced, or cheat, yet male-female couples are doing this all over the nation. Therefore, we see homosexual couples as sinning, but yet some of us are too. Overall, I support gay marriage because my parents raised me to not be judgmental and accept people for the way they are. Gay marriage should be legalized because, who are we to tell one another who we can and cannot love?

Shenika Harper

I was raised in the church, where it was only a holy communion of marriage for a man and woman; but I also feel that everyone deserves to find true happiness. People can't choose who they fall in love with. Everyone sins so I think gay marriage should be less of an issue compared to people killing another person. Why does it matter? We live in America, the land of the free. If a person chooses to be gay and many their significant other, people shouldn't care. It's not affecting anyone but the couple. People are so worried about others' relationships when they should be focused upon what is going on in the world. There are way more brutal things happening in life than a gay couple getting married.

Katherine Crickmore

Gay marriage should be legalized in the U.S. Putting all theology aside, we live in a democracy that claims equality, and giving equal rights to all is a part of that. If two adults who are fully capable of making their own decisions want to get married, then it is unconstitutional to bar them from it. This kind of debate is hugely reminiscent of the conflict surrounding interracial couples in the past, and, with time, I think it will be remembered as being just as absurd.

Tyler Clark

This is a topic that has gained a lot of political attention recently. I believe that gays and lesbians should undoubtedly be allowed to obtain a marriage or legal union through the government. When people bring up the ideals of religion into this argument, I believe that their argument has no validity as religion has no role in the American governing system. There is no official religion in America, so I do not believe that any religion can take away something that should be guaranteed to all. After all, isn't it interesting that in a country founded on freedom from religious persecution, we are now using religion to persecute freedoms?

Daniel Carroll

I do not think gay people should be able to wed in the U.S. It was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. That is not how I was raised and I just do not agree with it, because marrying gay people in the U.S. would mean they could adopt a kid. Imagine what that would do to the child growing up, having two dads or two moms. If they want to live together, then that's fine but I don't think it would be right to let them marry. Gay marriage is not in my belief by any means because in the Bible it even says it's wrong. People do disobey the Bible all the time but that is no reason to let gays wed.

Preston Bremus

If I were a homosexual, I would not want the right to be married, because the "problem" is that marriage is between a man and woman. I would say fine, I want something that represented the relationship that I was in anyways. It can be called homosexual union or maybe another term that accurately reflects what it is. I believe that homosexual couples should be looking to have legislation for recognition of their own type of union. This may be easier accomplished than trying to have their union considered marriage. Furthermore this would be more fulfilling and accurate for me than having gay marriage.

Emily Bower

Gay people have been around for decades and have just recently been more outgoing with their expressions of love towards others in an attempt to push the envelope in society. People need love, regardless of their sexual orientation. I understand the argument made by religious communities that gay marriage goes against natural marriage, and if this is upheld by our court system, that shouldn't deny homosexuals their right to happiness. Call it something other than marriage, but still allow gays to cohabitate and reap the benefits of a serious relationship, such as insurance coverage. Marriage is something that should be available to everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Gloria Arizpe

Without a doubt, marriage should be allowed for all. People say that God believes it is a sin for gay marriage, but if we were to really get into that discussion, one could say that many things we do on a normal basis are considered a sin; so why harp on this one particular subject? To make it even more of a political compromise, one could suggest legalizing gay marriage, but not allowing the marriage to be done at a church. Either way, I do not see the big deal.

Outgoing SGA President's Message

By Rebekah Cain '13

Looking back on this year as SGA president, I've realized how much I love Wesleyan. This has been a wonderful growing experience for me! I've seen the true colors of NCWC, the love, support and enthusiasm that the administration has for the students as well as the willingness and energy that the student body has when they unite in a common goal. NCWC is a wonderful small liberal arts college, "hidden among the pines," of our beautiful campus.

SGA has accomplished some wonderful things this year including: seeking the tuition freeze for all returning students, promoting the honor code, strengthening relationships among the faculty, staff and students, and an improving the relationship between NCWC and the local community. These were all accomplished through the hard work of SGA officers, the student body, administration, faculty and staff.

As SGA continues to grow, adding more clubs every year, I would like to challenge these clubs and student leaders to continue to strive for greatness! Our clubs have accomplished so many things this semester: attending educational conferences, hosting awareness events, promoting student unity, conducting petitions, and so much more! Our student leaders must not settle for the status quo; if you see something that needs improvement or attention, then address it! Help your fellow students gain a positive perspective, be the examples they can follow on the path towards success.

This experience enabled me the opportunity to glimpse what could be a best chapter in NCWC history, a college that is student-centric, where students show respect in words and deeds, reach out to the community and constantly grow in "promoting wisdom and courage through Christian education." Wesleyan is the perfect place for those who want to excel in everything they do. The administration, faculty and staff have created an atmosphere that allows motivated students to achieve their goals.

For improvements in student life to continue, it will take a community effort. We need to change this campus' culture. The following Paulo Coelho quotation applies perfectly to our NCWC family: "When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change; at such a moment, there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait."

I'm grateful for the foundation that NCWC has given me, as I step out into the "real world." I know that I am prepared for this period in my life. I hope other students can have the same perspective when their graduation approaches.

ASPIRE Student Awarded President's Cup

Phil Heavner, a new graduate from the Rocky Mount ASPIRE program, earned the President's Cup award in recognition of his sterling academic record.

The award was presented at the college's spring commencement ceremonies May 4 in the Dunn Center. Last month, at the Honors Convocation ceremony, Heavner, 40, was recognized as the outstanding Rocky Mount ASPIRE student.

Michael Drew, site director of the Rocky Mount ASPIRE program, noted that the Nashville native has been named to the President's Honors List each semester he's been enrolled at Wesleyan. His work earned him an invitation to join Sigma Beta Delta, the business honor society. In recent years, Heavner has volunteered for Hometown Solutions and My Sister's House, a non-profit agency that assists victims of domestic abuse.

According to Drew, professors have described Heavner as an excellent student who is "intelligent, articulate, and diligent and brings thought-provoking issues to the fore of learning." One professor commented that Heavner's work was of such a "high quality that he will be using it as an example for future student work."

Heavner began the ASPIRE program in 2010, years after a previous stint at UNC-Chapel Hill. With some credits earned at UNC and Nash Community College, he earned a business administration degree from Wesleyan. The Decree conducted a recent interview with Heavner about his time as a Battling Bishop.

Q. Were there ups and downs, perhaps some times when you thought you might have to abandon your studies?

A. Although it was tough at times, between working full time and school, I never once considered quitting or even taking time off. I had already experienced that back when I started college right out of high school. This time I was determined to make school my number-one priority, and do whatever it took.

Q. What was your motivation in pursuing your degree?

A. My biggest motivation was to satisfy a personal goal of obtaining a college degree.

Q. Provide a brief description of your current job and responsibilities.

A. I work full time at Honeywell Aerospace. I started as an assembly and test technician and now work as a workflow specialist. My daily responsibilities include setting production schedules, coordinating job assignments for the team, and troubleshooting computer-related or quality issues.

Q. What will you do with your degree? Describe your plans.

A. I hope to move into a management role at Honeywell. I would also like to use my degree to start my own business someday.

Q. Why was the ASPIRE program right for you?

A. It was perfect, due to the night-time class schedule that allowed me to still work full time during the day.

Q. What did you enjoy most about your business administration courses and other classes?

A. I liked the real-world experience that many of the teachers brought into the classroom.

Q. What was your favorite course?

A. Probably Business Ethics with Barry Drum. We discussed interesting topics that you normally wouldn't think of in the business world. Dr. Drum is a down-to-earth person and quite a funny character.

Q. Do you think that the liberal arts approach was right for you?

A. Even though many people feel that those types of classes are not necessary, I feel that it does serve a purpose in making you a more well-rounded person.

Q. We're asking the traditional students to tell us the amount of student loans they've accrued during their time here. What's your total?

A. Thanks to Honeywell's education reimbursement program, I'm happy to be graduating without any college loans.

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