

Editorials

Visit Of Russians Was Ironic

The visit to Wesleyan by Yuri Vasukueu and Valentin Shorin, second and third secretaries to the Russian embassy in Washington, D. C., is indeed ironic, for it was only five days later that President Kennedy issued orders that a naval blockade go into effect at once against all Russian vessels en route to Cuba. The purpose behind this order was to prevent any further arms buildup in the tiny country.

During the very moments these two men were frantically trying to convince Wesleyan students that Russia was advocating absolute peaceful co-existence, Russian ships were bearing down hard on the island, carrying cargoes of nuclear war-heads, and Russian engineers were busy setting up installations for these missiles in Cuba.

Surely Mr. Vasukueu and Mr. Shorin were well aware of this situation while they were on campus.

And if this is true, there is only one thing left to say: that this is just another example of the persistence with which the Russians deliver their propaganda, and the naivete they show when in the public limelight. And furthermore, we should see that America is guilty of same.

Newspaper Encourages Creativity

For some time now, this newspaper has been advocating creative writing on campus, for it seems to us that creative expression, among college students especially, is most important because it serves as a channel through which young persons can show fear, rebellion, joy, sorrow: traces of the 20th century.

This poignant poetry is an expression of the same:

Lo, these many years
have I
tottered
on the brink
of insanity
and dared not fall in
one Spring day
I was approached
by Madness.
Drowsy aqua-turquoise
Spiraled into
busy hot pink
Madness leered enticingly,
enfolded me
in his wispy
arms of steel
swirling, smirking—
I was ready to submit.
Then under the
stern gaze
of Common Sense
My lover grew impotent,
unalluring,
not worth an affair
Dazed and depleted
I reeled back
into uncertainty,
self-accusation,
trying to pray . . .
Unable to concentrate.

Faculty Member Outlines Plan For Wesleyan's Future Growth

Reprinted below is part of "A Faculty Member's Plan for Wesleyan" as presented by Dr. C. Edwin Harwood, professor of English, during the Founders' Day Convocation held last Thursday in the Student Union.

There are those who see the Wesleyan of the future in terms of size, 1,200, 1,800, 2,400, 4,000—even 6,000 students, with building commensurate with the size, and a faculty in proportion.

There are those who see the Wesleyan of the future in terms of athletic loyalty: the Bishops in conference competition, posters, newspaper write-ups, etc., a stadium with 20 or 30 thousand frenzied fans watching the Bishops push old Siwash down the gridiron.

There are those who see the Wesleyan of the future in terms of service to the community,

holding training classes like typing and accounting.

Now, without denying the value of these hopes, let me give a faculty member's hope for Wesleyan—a projection into the future of the liberal arts college.

As President Carter Davidson of Union College said, "Where but in the independent liberal arts college can we find the general education of the complete person still flourishing?"

In the United States there are over 700 such colleges, but merely to be independent, small, and liberal is not enough, if we can take the word of John W. Gustad, dean of liberal arts and acting dean of the graduate school of Alfred University. He speaks of many "institutions hanging onto life by their fingernails and staffed by faculties of marginal quality." He quotes

a nameless educator of national stature who said that "if 500 colleges in the U. S. were quietly knocked in the head, higher education would be a lot better off."

My projection of Wesleyan is fully conscious of this danger! Wesleyan College should emphasize certain characteristics to prevent falling into the fingernail class. I name six.

A large share of students should always live on campus. Frequent conferences with faculty members in "studies"—not business-like "offices"—should take place. We should have many ceremonial occasions, and many cultural and intellectual ones also.

There should be attractions to keep students and faculty on campus—a bookshop, which is as important as library or lab-

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"—WELL, DIDJA EVER STOP TO THINK THAT THIS 'F' JUS' MIGHT REFLECT A PRETTY POOR JOB OF TEACHING?!"

Letters To The Editor

(The editor reserves the right to accept or refuse to print any material submitted. Letters printed represent opinions of the individuals and not those of The Decree staff.)

THAT PING PONG BALL

To the Editor:

Reactions to our remark about the students who received a cracked ball and thereby lost a quarter continue to trickle in. One faculty member (known for his sympathetic but firm attitude toward student problems) suggested that anyone who didn't check the ball before using it was a sucker. We would like to agree, for life is real and earnest and any boys old enough to attend college should know it. But with all due deference to our esteemed colleague, we think that that is not the point.

Certainly the miserable quarter is not the point. Neither is the mere fact that the student's word was not taken, as flagrant a violation of the Wesleyan Code as that surely is.

No, the point, we feel, is that such a denial of the students' right (Bill of Rights, item one) is invidious, pernicious, nefarious—bad; we feel that it leads to micropsychic development among our students—and that we are dead set against. It shrinks the soul. When the "crib attendant" refused to believe that the ball had been cracked

on delivery, how did our mis-born heroes feel? Did they feel bad because a Bill of Rights had been violated? They never thought of it. But they did feel shrunken, rejected, less capable, less responsible because they had been humiliated by a necessary but impersonal rule. And that, dear readers, is what the Wesleyan Code is all about.

It seeks to make members of its community feel tall, respected, trusted. So that's why that cracked ping pong ball means so much: it has become the symbol of a flawed spirit—and that is important.

Dr. C. Edwin Harwood

EDITORIAL TOO SOFT

To the Editor:

If the purpose of an editorial is to expose an issue at hand, why was the issue on "Community Trust" which appeared in the last issue padded?

It seems to me that the illustrations set forth by the editor only covered up the issue at hand: that students are to be treated as adults.

As a comment, it seems appropriate to remind the community that it takes an adult to recognize an adult, and that the opinion of age is not always directed towards the young person's best interest. Rather, it is sometimes hard and set in old ways. The students as a whole do not raise insignificant issues. But when their rights are dictated they will bolt. And they should!

So we can safely say that the real issue behind the ping pong ball and sex poster was the inability of some members of the Administration to recognize col-

legatory and a "good deal more important than a stadium," and should be operated even at a loss, like the theatre, music and athletic events.

And finally, we should develop a warm but questioning relationship between town and gown—between the community and the college.

To be strong, a private college must have a strong constituency which believes in a mission to be accomplished and is willing to back that mission with its money.

MR. 'X' SAYS

Isn't it unusual that our college doesn't display the American flag anywhere on campus? First senior class, take the hint. A good flagpole with base, plaque, and flag costs around \$500 installed. Can you handle it?

What's this we hear about a select few organizing a fraternity on campus? A recent issue of Newsweek magazine reports that "fraternities have lost in prestige, especially at the prestige colleges." The article further states that "national fraternities long ago disappeared at Harvard and Princeton, while at Yale they are withering on the ivy vine."

And it is evident that such schools as Amherst, Brown University, and Williams College (a 169-year old Massachusetts school) are also taking steps to eliminate fraternities, which "have come to exercise a disproportionate role in undergraduate life." What advantages would fraternity membership bring on a campus as small as Wesleyan? Would it hinder or promote a friendly atmosphere? Make your decisions wisely, gentlemen.

This week's "pat-on-the-back" and "thank-you, sir" goes to Dr. C. E. Harwood. Upperclassmen like the way he presents his lectures on literature—without trying to glorify everything in the text. If it's bad, Dr. Harwood says it's bad. 'Nuff said.

Celestial humor: When the next man in line stepped up to the Pearly Gates, Saint Peter said, "Who is there?" The man replied: "It is I." Saint Peter answered: "Go to hell, dad; we've got enough English teachers in here now!"

And that's the very end.

Ferrer Stars In Picture Of Week

Cyrano De Bergerac, starring Jose Ferrer, will be shown Friday evening, Nov. 9, in Room 105 of the Administration Building under the auspices of the Music Department.

The award-winning movie of Edmund Rostand's dramatic play also features Mala Powers and William Prince.

An American actor of great versatility, Ferrer won an Academy Award in 1950 for his performance as the man with the abnormally large nose.

The play was first presented in 1891 in Paris as a three-act comedy in verse. Because of its tremendous success there, the play has been translated into many languages and is now a familiar comedy to people all over the world.

lege students as adults, and treat them accordingly. And until this is done, I suspect that the students will fight for their rights for a long, long time.

Larry Post

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