

Editorials

Do We Dare Criticize And Be Responsible?

As first semester ends and the new one opens up innumerable possibilities, the time for a careful scrutiny or re-evaluation of our past actions and future plans in appropriate.

Probably with the arrival of the new year, all of us made resolutions—maybe to study diligently for examinations or to begin studying next semester (dodging the issue a little longer), or possibly to try to improve personal traits and characteristics.

As a rule these proposed resolutions are neglected and forgotten—we procrastinate about fulfilling them. (Recall any resolutions that have been made and forgotten.)

Yet we are quick to criticize others who do not fulfill their promises such as our school officers, professors, or classmates. We readily condemn them as lazy, procrastinators, et cetera. We forget to look inwardly at ourselves—scrutinizing our own defective resolutions and faults in general.

We might ask ourselves if we always willingly accept the responsibility that we have assumed such as doing our school work to the extent of our capabilities. Do we try to help constructively (besides only creating antagonism by pointed criticism) such as willingly helping on committees, or in any other facet of the community?

Of course criticism is not wrong if we render it with the right attitude and have facts to warrant it. But should we not also be ready to admit our own shortcomings and to offer our help to remedy faulty areas of the community? Should we not be ready to praise the good aspects also?

The time is opportune for the re-evaluation of the whole structure of our college community—the excellence of the academic rating (individually and collectively), the relationship of the various administrative areas, and the fulfilling of assumed responsibility. Why do we not all join in some constructive work and accept our part in the total life of our college?

—S. E. B.

Office Of President

Democratic procedure is a basic tenet for any group of people with elected or appointed officers. Officers only represent; in smaller organizations they do not make decisions or establish policy.

It is certainly true that a president's or a chairman's vote is influential, and can at times be a tie-breaking factor, but we must remember that all presidents, from Kennedy to social club presidents, are initially given their powers by the vote of the group involved.

This vote represents the group's confidence in their candidate, and it is the new president's job to show himself worthy of the office. Whether his duties be voluminous or practically non-existent, fairness and consistency are always expected of him. Not only expected, but demanded.

Organization presidents at Wesleyan were not elected by popularity contests (or at least we like to think so) and it is their duty to remember this fact at all times. Not only are they expected to show outstanding qualities of character, but their records of parliamentary procedure must remain spotless if they are to fulfill their obligations to Wesleyan students.

As the editors of th Decree commend Wesleyan's outstanding presidents, we also enter a plea that they always remember their obligation of fair, consistent government.

—J. G.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"DON'T WORRY ABOUT TH' CHAPTERS WE SKIPPED—I BELIEVE I'VE COVERED THEM ADEQUATELY IN THE FINAL."

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.)

To the Editor:

Asinine indeed are the individuals who, during the evening meal in the cafeteria, insist on throwing, rolls at one another.

Of course if you take into consideration who the individual "kiddies" are, then perhaps it doesn't seem so asinine, because that type of conduct is typical of them.

In the first place they are quite ignorant of manners and they possess the mentality of eight-year-olds (that's stretching the point because few eight-

year-olds throw food at one another).

I believe that that type of conduct has no place in college circles or anywhere for that matter. I appeal to the classmates and friends of these immature people to try and help them. We, as responsible citizens of the college community are just as guilty as the "kiddies" if we condone this type of conduct.

It's our job to tell them to GROW UP, or GET OUT!

Dan Jacobs

Danforth Lecturer

MIT Prof Visits Here

Dr. Huston Smith, distinguished philosopher and authority on world religions, visited Wesleyan Wednesday and Thursday, January 10-11, as a Danforth Visiting Lecturer.

While he was on the Wesleyan campus, Dr. Smith gave a public lecture entitled "The God Seekers," in which he reported on techniques of spiritual training as employed in various sections of the world.

At a convocation he spoke on "The Accents of Cultures," in which he examined the discovery of enduring worth made by China, India and the West in their respective approaches to the problems of man's relation to others, to himself, and to nature.

He also held informal meetings with several classes in which his topics were "World Report" and "The Post-Modern Mind."

In 1956 Dr. Smith was appointed the first professor of philosophy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology since the early days of the Institute.

A graduate of Central College in Missouri, Dr. Smith received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1945. He lectured at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado before joining the faculty of Washington University in 1947.

Along with his many degrees, he has memberships in Phi Beta Kappa, the American Philoso-

phical Association, and the National Council on Religion in Higher Education. In 1958 Central College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Freshman Of The Month

(This column appears monthly, sponsored by the Executive Committee of the Freshman Class—Eds.)

Nelda Holder has been chosen as the January "Freshman of the Month" because of her dependable work as Devotions Chairman of Nash.

Since her appointment to her chairmanship, Nelda has prepared and presented the weekly devotional program or appointed someone else to do the job. Many of the devotionals have shown such originality in work and meaning underlying their presentation that they have become meaningful intervals in the weeks of study and play for the girls.

Nelda's background emphasizes other reasons for her being chosen for this honor. She was graduated from Garner High School in Garner, North Carolina. In high school Nelda held membership in the Beta Club, the presidency of the Future Homemakers of America, a position in the Senior Choir, and membership and presidency of the Methodist Youth Fellowship in her church—all while achiev-

Needles

By MONA COZART

The following poem was written and sent to us by a very good friend in New York, Geoffrey Fitzgerald. Geoffrey is one of Greenwich Village's poets.

"Wings of the Beast"

Come into this quiet place, come in to candlelight.

Lie down with that poor black beast, the beast with angel's wings.

There's a bit of the dawn in your teacup; it's been a long, long night.

The wings of the beast are folded; he dreams of indifferent things.

Look at the thing that lies in your ivory arms,

Look at the leaf as it falls as time stands still;

All others are lost and found in the wild alarms that flash from your eyes—

O eyes that slowly fill with the wreck of the years

For I am all of the others who weep in your blood's first doom,

And though I be good or bad or sad or glad, or mad

I am that black beast breathing in this room.

—Geoffrey Fitzgerald

Housemother In Hospital

Two incidents occurred during the Christmas vacation that upset North Carolina Wesleyan.

Mrs. Francis MacFarland, housemother of Nash dorm, was rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation. She is now recuperating nicely in the Wilson Hospital.

Mrs. J. R. Faulks and Mrs. MacFarland's sister, Miss Helen Smithwicks, have been substituting for Mrs. Mac as resident head of Nash Dorm during her absence.

On January 1, Gwen Pittenger was hurt in an automobile accident. She spent approximately a week in Park View Hospital recovering from brain concussion and shock. Then she was taken to her home in Norfolk to recuperate.

Gwen will return to college next semester to resume her studies.



NELDA HOLDER

ing sufficiently high academic excellence to be rated third in her graduating class. She was elected to the Garner High School Hall of Fame, and elected as Most Likely to Succeed.

The human heart pumps about four quarts of blood per minute through the body's 12,000 mile network of arteries, veins and capillaries.

The Wesleyan Decree

Official Student Newspaper of North Carolina Wesleyan College



MEMBER

EDITOR
Susan Black

ASSISTANT EDITOR
John Gillis

BUSINESS MANAGER
Vann Massey

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Walter White

LAYOUT EDITOR
Winni Stine

REPORTERS

Bill Harlley, Melvin Dowdy,
Susan Burkle, Sharon Nichols,
Sherri Leslie Ginny Eason,
Gordon Stone

SPORTS

David James, David Reaves