

## Editorials

## We Are Valuable

"Professors value students more highly than students value themselves." This statement by Dr. Jack Teagarden, who deleted it from a recent survey conducted by a Wesleyan psychology student, jolted many members of the chapel audience to full attention on May 2, 1963. The survey conducted by random picking of subjects—students and faculty—to fill out a questionnaire represents the prevalent attitude and viewpoint at Wesleyan. Many students do not value themselves highly enough to aspire or to achieve anything other than mediocre goals in their studies, community participation, relationship with others, et cetera. Being fully saturated with the idea that they are not worthy or capable of assuming their role as mature adults in a college community or the larger "outside community," these students prod along shrugging off any motivation or possible jolter of their apathy. This apathy is not quite the humility that is desirable in men who attain the wisdom and maturity to realize their limitations and inadequacies as well as their potentialities.

As Dr. Teagarden pointed out professors have studied extensively maturing by their studies and acquiring the knowledge that they can obtain only a minute portion of all knowledge. They have the humility to discern the essential worthiness of each individual or life personified in this individual; to value highly this portion of humanity for what he may gain for himself and man in general as well as place a high premium on the benefits they as professors will derive from his fellowman by association and assimilation of the knowledge of both. Students therefore are needed and valued by professors who are constantly as "lovers of wisdom" seeking to spark a response in them to their love. Also, by association with the students, the professor is constantly challenged to study—to extend and intensify his knowledge.

—S. B.

## Were They Fair?

We are going to mention this subject one more time, then (for our own safety) no more.

The Student Government Association elections held recently represent a dark spot on the records of those responsible for them. Granted the elections stirred up a little interest in the SGA, but that enthusiasm has run its course. Having to repeat the same election three times seems a mighty difficult way to create interest.

The points in question are these: Why does the date for SGA elections conflict indirectly with spring holidays? Why is the list of eligible candidates not posted sooner? Why are no campaigns held or speeches given to acquaint the students with the candidates?

The time at which the elections were held indeed conflicted with spring holidays. The SGA Constitution sets a definite time for these elections; since spring holidays will start on or about the same date each year, is a constitution change not needed? Eligible lists were posted on the day the holidays started, and elections were held two days after the holidays ended. The point is that the student body did not have time to give serious thought to the merits of each eligible.

Neither was there time available for the presentation of campaign speeches by the candidates and their supporters. How many students knew the candidates for president well enough to know how qualified they are to hold office? More knowledge than mere facial recognition is needed to be able to vote wisely. Competition and campaigning is a vital part of any election, and it should be so for ours.

We strongly recommend that (a) the dates for SGA elections be changed so that the student body may give its full attention to them; (b) eligible lists be posted a minimum of two weeks before elections are held; (c) adequate time be allowed for campaigning and speech-making.

Some colleges don't even have elections . . .

—J. G.  
—Mr. X

## LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"IF YOU RECALL, PHYLLIS, I WARNED YOU ABOUT CUTTING THRU OUR ENGINEERING BUILDING."

## 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.)

Editors, Wesleyan Decree:

"It is a sad comment on the decline of individualism in America that the critic has no friend in court. He is tagged 'controversial,' the worst that can happen in a conformist society.

"The 'controversial' tag makes him by definition a 'flawed' personality, not group-adjusted, one-sided, ill-informed, frustrated and motivated by ill will. Epithets may therefore be

thrown at him with impunity; he may be misquoted and misrepresented, and what he says may be contemptuously dismissed as requiring no refutation whatever." So spoke Vice Admiral Hyman G. Rickover in his Saturday Evening Post article, "The Decline of Individualism in America."

To offer "food-for-thought" as the only comment upon this assertion is to attempt to extirpate oneself from what is probably the most significant problem now eminent in modern society; this, the conscientious citizen of the Community cannot do.

To survey the entire nature and every aspect of this situation at Wesleyan would be to compile a treatise; to attempt to limit the scope of inquiry to certain specifics would be to compile one chapter of the treatise, therefore limiting its value because it has no comparative relation. It is therefore that we must speak in generalities.

Shall we continue to stand by and observe the persecution of the individual at Wesleyan because he refuses to sacrifice his personal integrity in favor of group "standards of propriety?" Are we to limit our concept of the Christian Community only to those known as conformists; is there no place in the Christian Community for the free thinker, for the inquiring mind, for individuality? Are we to deny anyone the right to criticize, to complement, to speak without fear of oppression, to discriminate as among respect, lack of respect, and disrespect?

Let us all hope that after thoughtful evaluation of this question, each and every individual may walk our halls, shoulder erect and head held high, feeling that he, "conformist" or "non-conformist," is a valuable member of the Wesleyan Community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Morris

## TICKETS ON SALE

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Spring Formal soon. On sale today and all week in the College Bookshop!

## SNATCHES

By BUTCH NICHOLS

## Liberal Arts

Worms subservient to a "professed" cause  
Will in time conform to "professed" laws.  
Intellectual elephantine themes  
Broaden and draw forth one's wormy dreams.

Forced to be engulfed in peanuts, tusks and gray  
And trying to find out the subtle way  
Of relating all those big and vague concepts  
To things less general—and inept

Though he may be at doing this  
He still goes through and with a hit or miss  
Discovers through his love of worms  
That elephants are only terms

To rote off, at times, to bridge that gap  
Between to know and to desire to know.  
So, our hero named "Acquiescence" is,  
As most professors think, a whiz

When in actuality  
Just knows that factuality.

## Collins' Talk Is Published

A Baccalaureate Sermon by President Thomas A. Collins has been printed in the May issue of Pulpit Digest, a foremost national journal for ministers.

The sermon, "What Our World Needs" was delivered as the commencement sermon at Atlantic Christian College in 1959, and was accepted shortly thereafter for use in the current issue. Dr. Collins has had other sermons accepted by Pulpit Digest and other ministerial publications. At present he prepares a monthly sermon for the Carolina Cooperator, publication of the North Carolina F. C. X.

Pulpit Digest is an interdenominational journal for ministers, published in Manhasset, N. Y., with Dr. Ralph C. Raughley, Jr., as editor.

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