

Editorials . . .

Its sad, isn't it? I suppose you could say that "people are people" and leave it at that. There will always be those who would rather ride the elevator than climb to the top, and then having arrived say, "What's so great about the view up here?" and go their merry, unassuming lifeless way. This world is full of people looking for the lazy way out or the quickest way up. Their attitude is: "I'll get there first even if I have to step on everyone else to do it." Look about you—it goes on all the time.

Look about our campus. What do you see here? What is college for? Presumably it is a testing ground for life—what you get out of it will be proportionate to what you put into it. Grades are important, but only as important as the knowledge you derive from them.

What about those people who cheat—what do they get out of college? They get out of it exactly what they put into it—NOTHING! Should these people be held in contempt? No, I think not. They should, above all, be pitied. What a shock when their good grades land them an important job and they discover that they don't know anything! What a shock they have when they find that four year of college prepared them only to cheat—and themselves at that! What a shock when they ultimately find themselves doing work that doesn't even require a college degree. And imagine the void which is created when they find that they passed college but failed themselves. When that day arrives it must bring with it a horrible, horrible feeling—of waste—utter waste. The rest of us could only pity these people—no one would even have the heart to say, "We tried to tell you—long ago."

There is a saying which goes something like this: "There is no shame in doing wrong; only in getting caught." How bitterly ironic it is when you finally are caught and then find it is yourself who did the catching. I would imagine that this is the worst kind of hell there could be.

The old grapevine provided us with two complaints to last issues editorial. The first (an administrative one) was that the article proposed no alternate plan or solution to the problem. The second (a student) complained that the "realistic look" was unrealistic.

The two seem to tie in with each other. Any "solution" would have to be the one to cease mandatory chapel. Here is where the second criticism comes in. If this were to happen, very few people would bother to attend chapel. This wouldn't do because the Board of Trustees wouldn't approve and we'd have mandatory chapel again. This poses quite a dilemma. What can be done? Here we must draw a line and say that only one thing can be done; that is to continue as we have in the past. If the Trustees feel that the Methodist Conference would disapprove if the students in a Methodist school didn't attend a regular chapel, then I'm afraid we're stuck with it. (Of course, Duke University doesn't count, since it is relatively independent anyway.) However, this differs sharply from what many of us feel should be done.

A system is good only as long as it is beneficial to most of those concerned and applies itself conscientiously to those concerned (in other words, when people are treated as ends rather than means). Not only is our present system unbeneficial to many; it is, in not a few cases, detrimental to those concerned. This is why the moral legitimacy is questioned. Many of us content that classes in religion and philosophy do far more in directing us toward a higher goal in life than does chapel, which in many cases confuses or destroys goals. Need it be said that more than one person here has been heard to say: "I don't participate in chapel services because the very nature of it is so mis-

In Memoriam

. . . Just A Few Words

By Melvin Dowdy



Mr. Frank Kalmbach (left), a past professor at Wesleyan and Ricks Daniels (right), a former Wesleyan student both passed away during the last week.

"You can't tell a book by its cover" is an old, accepted adage not necessarily true. Another philosopher remarked that books which wore signs of wear were valuable to some reader. Other books, whose covers and pages were still neat, clean, and unused were either new or of little necessity.

The Holy Bible is found in most homes and remains on the "best seller" index. Too many Bibles retain that unused, undisturbed, unread appearance and are of little consequence to their owners. Such a book only has meaning, significance, value, and signs of much wear, when read daily and studied systematically. "Man cannot live by bread alone, but by every work of God," Luke 4:04

Melvin D. Dowdy

directing that I get nothing from it." How many people did you see last Thursday (or Tuesday) who weren't singing or even saying the Lord's Prayer?

Should an image be protected or a system be deleted?

I'm afraid my friends that what should be done and what can be done are two different things and that this discourse must end on a sad note: the decision is not in our hands. Perhaps someone will heed this warning and do something.

Well, what did you for kicks today? Mumble about the administration over your evening meal? Gripe about our inept professors, student government, maintenance staff and cafeteria personal while you littered up a snack bar table which you had no intention of cleaning up? Retreat to your dorms and bemoan and bewail the lack of activities here, while you mentally canceled out next week's dance, athletic events, and concert? Sit around and wonder when those—fools in the newspaper office are going to "blast out" for you those things which

you don't have enough interest or intestinal fortitude to say yourself? Snarl at all those "townspeople" wandering around cluttering the halls and parking lots and attending student concerts and lectures at which they outnumber the students ten to one?

With improvement this college could be nothing short of great. It is the duty of all of us to voice our opinions about our concerns—political, administrative, student or whatever. It is our right to criticize and to assert ourselves—this is how things are accomplished. It is up to us to make college what we want it to be. A common complaint heard here is that this is more like a high school than a college. Everyone joins in to chime this and then sits around to wait for someone to do something about it—and the sad thing is that when someone does try to do something, they can count on the rest of the student body to sit back, stare idly into space, and do and say nothing. This newspaper is doing all it can for you but it can't do it alone. If you are so mentally incompetent and gutless that you can't express any opinion at all, then truly wonders if you're worth wasting time over! Not only do you refuse to voice your own opinion—you even refuse to comment on the efforts of those who do. There have been exactly three letters to the editor this year. Apparently you just don't care, and pretty soon we of the DECREE might quit caring. It would certainly make our job much easier—physically and mentally.

Once more we plead with you—Voice your opinions—it doesn't matter how. Attack us if you wish—God knows it's at least a start! If there are things which you want, you must work to get them—no one can go it alone—not the DECREE; not Doc Stephens, not the administration.

Reticence will only produce stagnation and we are the ones who must live in our own slime.

Ripples

Response To Last Issue

By Dodie Waters

The class of '68 has one unsung hero - Mr. Phil Sessoms. He wrote to "Upperclassman Waters" and attempted to polite English his thoughts pertaining to the Oct. 16 Ripples. As his letter was not 100% potent, the dull parts have been omitted and the "pearls" presented for the freshmen's delight.

"..I would like to thank you very much for the little article that you put in the--Decree. We certainly appreciate some of the names you gave us (the freshman class) and I would like to give you a few names myself but I am afraid that I would be expelled from this beloved campus if I put them in print.

I would like to inform you that it is hard enough, as you well know, for us to get acquainted with this campus without a few of the upperclassmen bearing down our necks and calling us infantile names-- There are many of us, a majority of us, that accepted the rules put down for us by the upperclassmen until some of the upperclassmen got out of hand.

How can you take it on yourself to hand down judgment on a group in which only a minority are at fault.

If you don't like this reply, I'm glad because I didn't like your article..Phil Sessoms"

On the contrary, Mr. Sessoms your letter was most enlightening and welcomed. Press deadlines make it necessary to write this column more than one week in advance. I must admit, that by the time of press release the attitudes had greatly improved.

The class of '68 has a lot to offer at Wesleyan.

Wesleyan's halls never looked as good as they did this year during freshman election week. The election proved to all that the freshmen are interested in Wesleyan and anxious to help make her great. The freshman class is the largest class at Wesleyan--there's no reason why she couldn't be the greatest.

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