

Editorial

"To Save Our Cities"

The development and creative survival of our cities is the key issue in the struggle today for the preservation of the American brand of Western Civilization. While they contain the worst that has been allowed to survive, they contain also the best that has been achieved. Slums, whose verminous environments are certainly horrifying to the sensitive, are yet the centers of the creation of new sectors of our cherished middle class. Historically, slums, whose populations were composed of ethnological and racial groups that seemed in their time quite as inassimiable into the bulk of the population as Negroes seem to be in ours, developed a middle class whose members, as they became more numerous and more wealthy, gradually became the owners of their districts and who, accepting insensibly and with no sense of loss of cultural identity the behavioral patterns and the attitudes of the rest of the American middle class, became full citizens, socially as well as legally. A slum is not a ghetto.

The question that American society faces is not one of changing instantly its economic or social patterns, but one of preserving these patterns in the midst of vast and potentially destructive technological changes, for these economic and social patterns of ours are the best means that we have for protecting the identity and options of the individual. For instance, human individuals are in general gregarious, requiring interaction with their fellows for the complete development of their personalities. Social interaction in cities requires that sidewalks be safe for use as playgrounds, as routes of limited transportation, as centers of the dissemination of news and information, and as centers of debate and gossip; the best policing and surveillance of sidewalks is that of the elderly from upper windows and that of merchants from the doors of their shops. But a freeway injudiciously routed can cut through a section of a city and totally destroy the community of existence of its inhabitants by making their sidewalks unused and therefore unsafe. The destruction of a community of existence removes many of the options, both of actions and of thoughts, of the individuals in the community, thus limiting the development of their personalities. Economic results of free-way building through cities follow as logically as the social and are quite as appalling.

The saving of our cities as centers of creative and potentially happy human existence and interaction requires and will require vast Federal expenditures. For example, transportation may have to be either subterranean or airborne, and either alternative is expensive.

"Butter" must have its place in the Federal Budget, and so large a place that either taxes must rise or the "guns" part of the political slogan must go. Our intervention in the Vietnamese civil war is a small issue in comparison to that of saving our cities, for saving our cities perhaps means saving our civilization. Neither national political convention resolved this question, but it can hardly wait another four or eight years.

FACULTY FORUM

By C. V. Mottershead
And
Sim Wilde

As advisor to the DECREE, I am privileged to initiate a new column, Faculty Forum. Hopefully, this will provide a platform from which the faculty can address the student body on varying topics of interest. I would hope that this column would not inform but also stimulate imaginations and broaden horizons. With this in mind I encourage the students to respond to these articles--be it positive or negative but always in a creative manner.

I think that this is one of the functions of our newspaper. The DECREE can provide an avenue in which to vent your frustrations and criticisms as well as compliments and solutions of problems concerning the Wesleyan College Community, the state of North Carolina, and our Nation.

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, John Gardner. I urge you, he says, "to seek the full development of those qualities of CURIOSITY, IMAGINATION, DEDICATION, and COURAGE on which the vitality of this Nation depends."

It is the classroom environs that can and do provide a strong impetus for the development and refinement of these qualities. Moreover, extra-curricular activities can complement this academic experience in helping you explore your potentialities and achieve their realizations. Your own time and interests determine the role extra-curricular activities play in your college life; it never, obviously, takes priority over academics.

But you can always participate. You may not have the time or interest to be a reporter on the DECREE, but you can make the time to write a Letter to the Editor. You may not have the time or ability to play soccer, but you can make the time to

WESLEYAN '68-'69 CONCERT SEASON INCLUDES CLASSICS, POP, AND SOUL

A variety of concerts will add highlights to cultural events at Wesleyan this year. The first annual Rocky Mount-Wesleyan Performing Arts Series will bring four groups of widely recognized performers to Wesleyan and the Rocky Mount area.

The Camerata Bern introduces an international air to the opening concert of the season on November 20. The chamber orchestra, composed of twelve youthful Bern Academy musicians, began their rise to prominence six years ago dur-

help cheer for the team.

I hope that this year is an enlightening one for all of us, and that the DECREE plays a significant role in sparking some illumination.

ing the International Chamber Music Festival at Adelboden. Successful tours in Europe, New Zealand, and the United States have brought wide acclaim to the group. Made up of representatives from many countries, the Camerata Bern will cap a second United States tour with its Wesleyan per-

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Hall Converted

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the first 100% wire clothes hanger 3-story ladder. A new horticulture committee has been formed to plant vines and encourage their growth up the sides of the walls to the third floor windows. One enterprising young man, using his height for financial advantage, has offered his shoulders for rent by the hour to any boy desiring conversation with the girls on the third floor.

It has been reported that no complaints have been filed. Quite to the contrary, one boy stated that when his father heard about the arrangements, he wanted a room, too. However, another said that his parents didn't know the situation, and if they did he was sure that they would object.

Watching this dorm and the movements of its occupants could prove to be highly amusing during the year.

THE DECREE

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Out-Of-Town Papers Now In Library

Students who live in the Washington, D.C., Richmond and Norfolk areas can now read their hometown newspaper in the Wesleyan Library.

Beginning September 1, the library is subscribing to the following newspapers: Washington Post, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Richmond Times-Dispatch, and Durham (N.C.) Morning Herald. In addition, the library has entered a subscription to three foreign newspapers. They are as follows: ABC

(Madrid), Le Monde (Paris), and Die Zeit (Hamburg). All these newspapers are issued daily with the exception of Die Zeit, a weekly.

Subscriptions to approximately 25 new periodicals have also been entered beginning this month. New titles include Science Digest, Ramparts, Popular Government, Current Digest of the Soviet Press, Esquire, and Changing Times.

Current issues of all newspapers and periodicals received by the library are available in the browsing room. Newspapers are kept two months, then discarded.

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You may be able to influence the editor or a feature writer to your cause, but if this fails, there is always the Letter-to-the-Editor.

It is active exchanges of ideas such as this which vitalize your college experience. For those Freshmen who read Off to College, recall the letter to you from former



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