

# Editorial

## “RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT”

The responsibility of any elected official is to his electorate. While he must in general act and think in terms of loyalty to and unity with the ruling body to which he has been elected, yet the ultimate loyalty and concern of an elected official of any integrity must be to those who elected him. Thus a U.S. Senator will in good conscience work to bring improvements physical, financial, and legal, to his state, be it even to the detriment of another state; not that such improvements actively harm another, but simply that the building of a dam in his state, for instance, means that funds are not available for the construction of a dam in another. Thus, too, the conscientious elected officials of the student body would work to achieve those goals desired by the student body.

If the students desire their student government to obtain for them more freedom, it is logical to expect the students' Senate to pass, as a reasonable minimum, resolutions and regulations increasing student responsibility and freedom; if the students desire a greater voice and involvement in college affairs, a good student government would work by petitions, pressure, and the trading of favors, for more actual power in the decision-making of the college organization; and if, perhaps perversely, the students desire more protection in that freedom and involvement in college affairs, then it is reasonable to expect that student government would back strongly the office of the Public Defender, giving short shrift to its painful duty of punishment and prosecution, a duty foisted off onto it.

It would be no great evil were this student government policy finally to give the students more dominance in the shaping of college laws and policies; it would, perhaps, even be an indication of a greater measure of democracy at work among us.

will probably ever have to become dynamic, aggressive, and alert persons. A good college will demand study, will demand reading, will demand thinking, and if the student will not, the good college will ultimately eliminate him to make room for those who will.

In the third place, the good college allows an atmosphere where there is a high degree of experimentation. It must be so if there is to be learning and progress and improvement in a student's life. If a student is to find himself, is to establish a sound and meaningful identity, he needs an exposure to many types of experiences. He needs the freedom to experiment and fail, if necessary. Occasionally, this experimentation gets him into trouble. But this is a part of the process of learning: exploration, experimentation, discovery, sometimes failure. The good college allows the student to develop to the fullest of his potential in a framework of limited and reasonable restrictions.

Wesleyan College will treat its students as young adults and will expect them to act accordingly.

Wesleyan College will insist that its students accept full and unqualified responsibility for

their own conduct and action.

In short, Wesleyan College believes its students should have the freedom to make decisions, to develop their own attitudes, and to determine their own courses of action. But it will also demand that students be responsible to themselves and the college community. This the key phrase: freedom with responsibility. Freedom, and the privileges that go with it, yes, but with it comes a strict accountability for the results.

The only education really worth having is a self-education - one which an individual gets for himself. Wesleyan College will provide all the ingredients necessary for this self-education. But that is as far as it can go. What happens from there on is up to the student.

**Amanda Ambrose**

Rising vocal star Amanda Ambrose will appear in concert October 29. Song, humor, and soul add life to her own original blend of music. She sings to please many moods. Blues, rock, and gospel, ballads, and jazz are rendered in her original style. Amanda's deeply personal communication with her audience gives her wide appeal.

# The Decree

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lege have never been allowed to make independent judgments and have no basis of any kind for decision-making on their own. These decisions which will be required of the college student range from major significance to minor importance: whether to clean up one's room or not, to get up and go to class or sleep, to go out for the basketball team or the dramatics club or both, to study or sleep or go to the movies or drink beer or go home, to be a doctor, lawyer, or Indian chief.

What are these demands the good college will place on its students? First and foremost will be the expectation that a student will behave as a mature adult who will accept the responsibility personally for his own conduct and behavior, for his own success or failure. The college will provide all the assistance and direction it can, but it will not supervise every move or spy to see that the student is going to bed on time or attending classes or keeping the right company.

Finally, the college student needs an understanding of what the academic process is all about - of what it takes to succeed as a learner. Recently, in an interview with a student, the author asked him if the work at college was harder or easier than he had expected. His reply was: "It's hard enough, all right, but there is no way of describing the difference in what I expected and what things here are really like."

His plight is typical. He was not at all prepared for the true nature of learning and inquiry and study. Those who come to college need to know that learning is not easy, that an open mind and a willingness to accept new ideas (or at least think about them) is essential, that understanding and education can come only to those who deliberately seek them out.

A good college will see to it that nothing about a student's life or learning is above question, that there are no sacred cows free from criticism, and that creaky thinking processes are in a constant state of ferment. In order to deal with this circumstance, the student must fight back. He must read, he must study, he must organize and reorganize his own ideas and, above all else, he must think. No doubt there are many students who graduate from college without doing all this, and who simply manage to meet the minimal requirements of the instructors. But they miss the greatest opportunity they

Unfortunately, there isn't much the college can do to assure that its students have these good qualities - the ability to organize themselves, the emotional maturity to make decisions, and an understanding of the academic process - before they come to college. There are demands the good college will make which help to develop these qualities after the student arrives, and the entering freshman will either come to terms with these demands or he will

whom I simply do not trust, whom it really frightens me to think of as President, and by withholding my vote I am expanding their chances of winning the election. So I think to myself that there is one major issue with which I do not agree, but there are numerous not-so-vital issues on which the candidates do not agree, so I conclude by ignoring the existence of the principal issue, (with a secret hope that somehow my candidate will resolve it properly), and vote for the one whose opinion and record most express that in which I believe.

I can remember being taught throughout my years in secondary schools that though the United States has a large population and though it seems as if one person has not much power, it is, nevertheless, his duty and privilege to vote, that his vote is his voice in the administration of his nation's government. But the individual's vote, at least as a means of choosing between policies and attitudes, has certainly been devalued in this election year by the conventions' choices. How am I to voice my opinion? I am provided with a solution to the problem: don't vote, people say; protest by withholding your voice. Very fine and good, I think, except that I want to be heard, because though I really want none of the three candidates to have control of my nation, yet there are two running

by Catherine Simpson

## COMMENTARY

Question: What is a Muskie?

Answer: The same thing as an Agnew only fluffier.

It cannot be taken seriously. One must have the courage to laugh, because to take it seriously means frustration, disgust, and fear. One cannot even do one's own small part in helping to nominate the candidate of one's choice with any hope of success, because the nomination of a candidate is determined by a select few of the best (ie, most adept in the art of corruption) player of the Great American Game. One hasn't even the power to help elect convention delegates in many cases, as delegates are chosen by the party kings of the states. Is it possible that the conventions reflected even the majority will of the parties?

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The DECREE proudly announces a change to weekly publication through the medium of Lawrence Newspapers, Inc., of Garner, N. C.

"Speak low, if you speak love."  
 -Shakespeare