

# PAX!



## Editor's Mail

Dear Editor:

As an alumnus of Wesleyan, I happily breezed through a recent copy of the DECREE. It seemed to hold the same old articles about apathy on campus, anti-Rocky Mount stories, and announcements that the Bishops lost another game. I was, however, slightly perplexed at the content of an article by Jeff Shelton entitled "Perspective." As I read through the story I mumbled to myself, "It seems that Mr. Shelton himself has little 'perspective'."

In respect to this mumbled opinion, I would like to pen a few lines in reply to Mr. Shelton's literary opinions. He does not seem to realize that as he criticises the "Big Three" and their attack on so-called bogey men, he is creating his own bogey men. He has simply reversed the tables and used the Presidential candidates as his scapegoats in meager defense of their attacks on his apparent thoughts, I believe this phenomenon is generally known as name-calling. But then, the shoe does not really fit does it Mr. Shelton, be-

cause your scapegoats are the right scapegoats aren't they? Pity that your game works both ways.

It would be helpful if I had some specific grounds to reply to Mr. Shelton on, but he seems to enjoy dwelling in ungrounded generalities. I shall attempt to back up at least a few of my statements with more than personal opinions. America has certainly had its persecutions in the past, but they have not all been by W.A.S.P.s Mr. Shelton. The Abolitionist were, although fighting for a just cause, rather crude and radical in their means. The draft riots which broke out during the Civil War also come to mind as bearing striking resemblance to the present demonstration against the draft, and other assorted issues which few people know little about. The protesters were mainly WASP's, but that is not the issue they were a minority disagreeing with "The Establishment," and that is the point. The men who rioted in New York on July 13, 1863 were predominately Ir-

# FACULTY FORUM

By VANCE MIZELLE

Mind you, it's not that I don't find anything to criticize the Wesleyan student for. Far from it. I agree with Dr. Davis that two few students here really involve themselves in such rewarding extra-curricular activities as our musical productions - or any activity for that matter which depends on student enthusiasm and participation. I agree with Dr. Bauer that it is sad that so few turn out to support our teams on the field. A disappointment when you con-

sider the size of our student body. (It reminds me of a night during the run of a play once when we performed for a quiet audience of 23 people). And I have a few gripes myself. It gives me a grubby kind of satisfaction to say in print that I balk at this notion so many Wesleyan students apparently have that if they have a quiz they automatically get some kind of dispensation, a free, gratis, unqualified license to cut everything else that day in order to

ish-Americans who during the course of their demonstration overpowered police and firemen, lynched several Negroes, and burned residences which amounted to about \$1,500,000 worth of damage. When General Meade's army was rushed in to quell the disturbance four days later, the damage had been done. Was Meade violating the rights of these citizens to "peacefully assemble?" Sounds very much like Chicago in 1968 doesn't it Mr. Shelton? The Constitution of the United States gives each man the right to freedom of speech, and gives to the people the right to peaceably assemble. It does not give anyone the right to disobey a law, only the right to disagree with it. "The framers of the Constitution spurned European tradition by rejecting a monarchy, ... placing their trust in a government of the people, one which should rule by counting heads instead of breaking them." This is equally applicable to all Americans, the Yippies as well as the Police. The United States is often considered a young nation, but it is one of the oldest continuous governments in the world. The reason for this is that the spirit of its people has always been empirical and pragmatic (look those up in your thesaurus), dedicated to equalitarian ends but willing to realize them by flexible means.

Mr. Shelton did not ever name any instances where the two major candidates, George Wallace is an anachronism-not a candidate, used the technique of "Redbaiting." Of course Mr. Nixon made his alleged reputation at the expense of Alger Hiss. I have heard no instances of Mr. Humphrey calling anyone a communist, except possibly Mr. Kosygin. It might also be well to note that although

Mr. Humphrey was the founder of the ADA, this organization has moved a little more left than it was under his guidance. This could be the cause for his disassociation from that organization.

In reference to your closing remarks, Mr. Shelton, Woodrow Wilson once said, "We must neither run with the crowd nor deride it - but seek sober counsel for it - and for ourselves." I contend that there was little facism in Chicago but, at the risk of sounding vaguely like George Wallace, rather a small and unsuccessful attempt at anarchism. The students who went to the convention were there with the expressed purpose of disrupting the workings of the convention. They went in an effort not to peaceably assemble and protest, but in an effort to discredit, disrupt, and destroy. "Americans are free to disagree with the law, but not to disobey it. For in a government of laws and not of men, no man, and no mob, however unruly or boistrous, is entitled to defy a court of law. If this country should ever reach the point where any man or group of men by force or threat of force could long defy the commands of our Constitution, then no law would stand free from doubt, no judge would be sure of his writ, and no citizen would be safe from his neighbors." John Kennedy said that on February 28, 1963, and I contend that it is equally true today. Your mob in Chicago was knowingly breaking the law, and as a young person, I resented their claims to re-

study for quiz. Boy, that puts me off.

But not today. Today is not for my gripes - and we can argue these complaints better elsewhere. Today, in this Faculty Forum, I believe I'd rather comment as though I would not have that opportunity again. And so the comment must stand: this is my thought for the year, you might say.

It springs from something I read recently, late one afternoon, in fact, when I had arrived home from school, still undecided on a topic for the next issue of the paper. In the mail that afternoon was the November issue of "McCall's", on the cover of which I noticed that Jessamyn West, the author, had written a "Prayer for the Next President." I sat down and read it. When I had finished, I went back and read this again:

"My prayer for you, Mr. President, is that you be a man we want to follow. But before that, I would pray that we become a people who want to follow what is good. Unless you are the President of such a people, not all of your administrative genius, political know-how, or personal dedication to principle can save your four years from disaster. You can, and should, in God's mercy, represent an integrity, an idealism, a forbearance in us we scarcely knew we possessed. But in the long run the people rule. You cannot lead a cynical, selfish, violent, and backward-looking people to-

(Continued on Page 4)



College by Robin Rawlings.

## The Decree

Official Student Newspaper of North Carolina Wesleyan College

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 PHOTOGRAPHER.....Baxter Smith

Business Address: Box 3146, Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, N. C.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WESLEYAN STUDENTS.

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