

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"I'M SORRY TO CALL OFF OUR DATE WORTHAL. I---STOP IT, FREDDY---HAVE TO STUDY TO-NITE."

EDITORIAL

Instead of an editorial, I am going to make several comments on the events of the past several weeks.

First of all, I am pleased to announce that the Sophomore Proficiency Exams have definitely been canceled. This decision reflects a wise decision on the part of the faculty at the urging of the English Department.

The continuing discussion concerning Dean Moore's Convocation Proposal seems to lead to one particular point, the question of whether or not academic sanctions should be a part of this program. Dean Moore claims the necessity of attaching an academic standard in order to obtain a monetary grant from a foundation. Many students claim that this program will merely be another hindrance in the quest for upper level hours. This "course" will also hinder students who want to take electives which will parallel their major. I would like to see this program become a reality at Wesleyan, but in a more acceptable form. The needs and desires of a wide variety of students must be considered and reworked into a desirable compromise. I feel that each student should be presented with the choice as to whether or not he wishes to participate.

Finally, the apparent inadequacies of the 1967 Dissenter are the fault of those students who did not work on it. It is hoped that the formation of a Publications Committee within the SGA and a new staff will produce a result which does not reflect the mediocrity of Wesleyan's students.

THE DECREE

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ramsey lewis

This is the first in a series of monthly articles by the popular piano stylist, Ramsey Lewis. In months to come, Lewis will run the gamut of the Vietnam conflict, soul food, plays, today's music, politics, dances, black power, pop art, movies, and night club and concert performances by every major artist in the United States and Canada. Ramsey will go backstage to visit performers and to relay questions directed to him by readers.

I am told that on a bright spring morning in May, 1935, great joy filled the home of one Ramsey and Pauline Lewis, of Chicago, Illinois. The occasion was the arrival of their first, and as it developed, only son. Their pride, it is reported, was equaled only by the loud squalls of an infant, whose destiny had been rather fully plotted the moment Ramsey Lewis Senior laid eyes on him: He would be a musician.

Actually, it was my older sister, Lucille, who had been tapped to lead the family crusade into the music world. But in 1941, it became clear that journalism held a greater attraction for Lucille. So, at age six, the musical banner was firmly thrust toward me, along with many hard arguments (the hardest of them landing on the seat of my pants), as to why I must hold the musical banner aloft. I reluctantly took hold. It seemed at this point that eighty eight little monsters had come to occupy and control my life. The neighborhood sand lot, which to me held so much promise, was virtually declared off limits.

The carefully calculated routine moved at a pace that seemed to shorten the space between daylight and dark: Regular visits to the home of Ernestine Bruce, the neighborhood music teacher at fifty cents a lesson; two hours daily practice at the piano followed my six hour day at Jenner Elementary School. Then came the home work.

In 1946, the hard work really began. Ernestine Bruce gave way to Miss Dorothy Mendelsohn. Miss Mendelsohn moved with an almost frightening intensity to sharpen the raw edges of my musical knowledge; imposing a structured technical proficiency born of the classics. The next several years were to be given to musical technique, ear training, and harmony courses. Then came what may have been the most exhilarating of all experiences. I was invited to play for the church choir, directed by my father. In no time at all, I became totally engrossed in the emotional, and rhythmic forces of Negro gospel music. Out of this combination of classical training, and deep involvement in the powerful rhythmic expression of Negro church music, came what many have come to regard as "THE RAMSEY LEWIS STYLE."

The latter phenomenon, the Ramsey Lewis Style, may be a matter of individual definition, or identification. Whatever it may mean to others, for me it means at least penetrating the mysteries of music



beyond the mere technical ability to get over the keyboard with ease. It means the fullest expression of even the deepest emotion...the kind of expression that may evoke a tear with the melodic refrain of "Pawnbroker;" a smile to the thought of "I'll Wait For You;" or even a "Yea Man" to the pulsating beat of "Wade In The Water", or "In Crowd."

It is rare that I ever embark upon a sea of words without my piano as a life raft. But, having been privileged to pursue a career that has taken me the length and breadth of our nation, and onto the campuses of more than two hundred American colleges and universities, I am inspired to speak to, and keep in touch with a viable and living public as often as I can. Here is hoping that you will choose to join me in the future as we regularly comment on the vital issues of our times; closely examining famous "Soul Food" recipes or engage in candid interviews with Nancy Wilson, Dr. Benjamin Spock, Bill Cosby, Gayle Sayres, Bishop Joseph A. Pike, and other outstanding personalities.

COMMENTARY

BY MATT GAFFNEY

Now that the students of Wesleyan have had their mid-term examinations and have enjoyed a short holiday, they are in a position to study their progress in their various courses. Each student is able to compute the grades he must obtain on future tests in order to remain off academic probation. A large part of each student's final grade will depend also on the quality of his required term papers, projects, and book reviews. To this end our college library plays an important part.

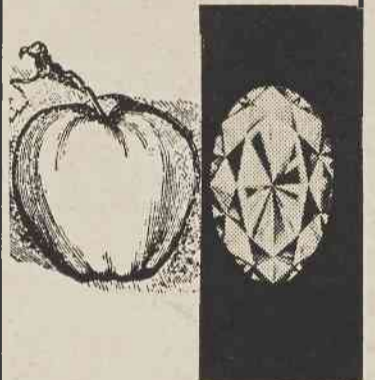
Understandably, students are restricted in their use of the library in that they can benefit from the library's facilities only outside of their class and meal times. The library is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M., Saturdays from 8:00 A. M. to 12:30 P. M., and Sundays from 2:00 P. M. to 5:30 P. M. and from 7:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M. However, the only times during the week which are open for all students to attend without missing classes or meals are: Monday through Friday from 6:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M.; Saturday from 11:00 A. M. to 11:30 A. M.; and during all open hours on Sunday. Each student is guaranteed a total

of twenty-eight (28) hours of uninterrupted study and research time, not enough time for the student to devote himself effectively to his many tasks. In order to provide the students with ample opportunity to complete their work, the library hours should be extended to 10:00 P. M. on Saturdays.

There are, certainly, many hours during the week when each student could use the library between classes, but these opportunities are usually of short duration, lasting one or two hours at a time, preventing the student from attaining a satisfactory degree of concentration. In addition, the students should use these brief pauses in their routine to socialize and attend to their personal needs.

The only action to improve the students' situation is to extend the library's hours to 10:00 P. M. on Saturdays. Atlantic Christian College in Wilson has library hours until 4:00 P. M. each Saturday. The Rocky Mount city library is open every Saturday until 9:00 P. M. Students without cars have a difficult time benefiting from these hours. The extra time would also provide more hours for students to eliminate their work grants.

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