

FACULTY FORUM

By Dr. John Davis

Once again, the eternal complaint comes forth. I might quote the graffiti in the SU which says, "Apathy reigns at Wesleyan." The comment scrawled underneath succinctly sums up the prevailing attitude. "I don't know what that means and I don't care."

I realize that this is not quite fair to the Wesleyan Student body. Apathy (whoever HE is) is not the only reigning monarch. We also have grades, soccer, girls, theatre, music, student policies, boys, the draft . . . you name it. Each one of these is of primary importance to someone. And every student on campus has something which is important to him. If this is true, (and it must be true . . . a professor said it!) why is there so much talk about student apathy? More important, where is this talk coming from?

As I see it, apathy might be defined as "a disease common to the other guy, characterized by his lack of interest in my specialty." Using this definition, it is easy to see why the cry of "Apathy, apathy!" is banded about so much. From my viewpoint as a member of the Music Department, I look around and what do I see? A chorus of 70 and a band of 40 . . . that's less than 20% of the student body . . . apathy, apathy! To Mr. Dingman, the world appears largely uninterested in performing on stage . . . apathy, apathy! To Dr. Bond, the students seem uncaring about the problems of the community . . . apathy, apathy! To Ed Smith, apparently only a few students care about student problems . . . apathy! To John Roberts, it might seem strange that so

few students participate in student government when it concerns them so directly. To Coach Music, it must be frustrating to have such a small percentage of students participating in soccer . . . apathy, etc.

Let's examine the problems individually. The students who are singing in the band and/or playing in the chorus (this typewriter just made a mistake) are unable to go out for soccer . . . and vice versa. Not because they are uninterested, but because rehearsals and practices are scheduled at the same time. The students who are holding student offices and attending meetings on campus are unable to participate in shows and rehearsals which are happening simultaneously. Students who are spending all their time earning grades are unable to write columns for the paper. And so on, AD NAUSEAM.

Therefore, since I am tired of hearing charges of apathy leveled at our students, I have a suggestion. Or is it a solution? Or perhaps an answer to the unasked question, "Why don't our students participate in more activities?"

The reason is simple. Our students are SO busy at their various and several activities they have no time to waste on other people's activities. We have a hyperactive student body, not an apathetic one. Our students are all doers, not watchers. We should be commiserating with their lack of free time rather than complaining about their lack of participation.

In closing, I might add that I really don't believe this. Evenings spent at the Retreat are still not participation in Life. Look at the name of the place.

Cast Is Chosen

(Continued from Page 1)

ways have in a small school, but it seems like a bigger problem at Wesleyan. It makes it that much harder for the director. Mr. Dingman is to be commended for the fine job he does, considering the narrow selection he has to choose from."

On the whole there seemed to be a great deal of dramatically talented Freshmen. Eileen O'Grady voiced the impressions of the theatre depart-

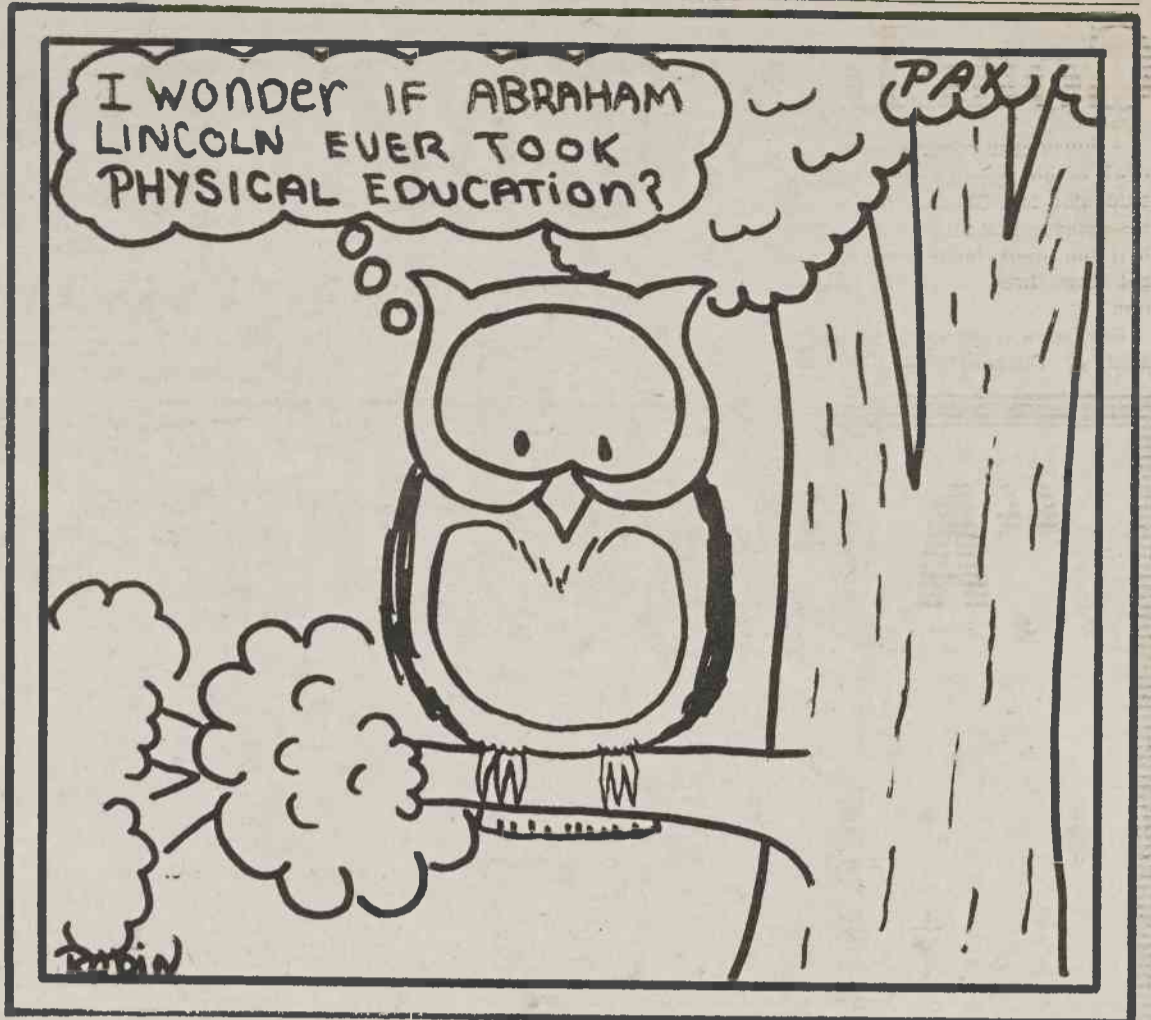
ment when she said, "Freshman talent is much better this year than in the past. There's a more intense struggle between the new and old talent this year. There's now something to be jealous about, so it'll make a good show."

The major disappointment to Mr. Dingman was the relatively small number of Freshmen who tried out though there were more Freshmen trying out than Upperclassmen.

APOLOGY

We regret to announce that, owing to the Public Relations Office's having excluded us from its dark-room, it was impossible to include photographs in this issue of The Decree.

—Ed Smith, Editor



'Library'

(Continued from Page 1)

Any book may be renewed once for three weeks if it has not been requested by another student or faculty member. Reference books may be charged out for overnight use, and periodicals may be borrowed for three days.

Library hours remain the same as those observed last year with the exception of Saturday morning, when the library will close at 12 noon. Use of the library on Saturday morning during the fall semester will determine whether it will remain open on Saturday the remainder of the year.

Beginning October 3, the library will close at 5 p. m. each Friday, then reopen at 6:30 and remain open until 10 p. m. During the months of September and January the library will be closed on Friday night.

Several new periodicals have been added to the Wesleyan Library's collection in recent months. Among the popular periodicals in this group are the following:

(1) McLUHAN DEW-LINE- a monthly multi-media magazine which began publication in July 1968. The editors describe this publication as "a startling, shocking Early Warning system for our era of instant change."

(2) EBONY- a monthly magazine intended primarily for the black reader. Some issues are devoted to a particular topic; e.g., the August, 1969 issue is devoted entirely to the black revolution.

(3) NATIONAL REVIEW- bi-weekly magazine edited by William F. Buckley, Jr., a leading spokesman for conservatism.

(4) PSYCHOLOGY TODAY - monthly magazine "about psychology, society, and human behavior." Some issues are devoted to a particular subject; e.g., the July, 1969 issue focuses on human sexuality.

The current issue of each of these periodicals is shelved in the browsing room of the library; back issues are shelved in the mezzanine.

Wilde Hits Hazing

Editor's Note: Dean Wilde sent the following letter to all freshmen women Friday in apology for the conduct of some upperclass women in a raid Wednesday night on the freshman women's dorm. Supporting Dean Wilde's position on the incident wholeheartedly, we hope that some constructive program can be substituted in the near future for the traditional hazing that has become wholly destructive in its nature and in its effects.

"On behalf of the Wesleyan student body, I would like to apologize for the improper

treatment some of you received at the hands of certain upperclass women this past week.

Their intent was not malicious, I think. They asked me to let them "raid" your dormitory and have some fun at your expense. They convinced me that this traditional act was good for freshmen since it tended to unite them and improve their morale. For the life of me, I cannot see how shaving cream and vaseline in one's hair, or soup poured on one's clothing, or abusive and vulgar language can improve morale. Most of this behaviour was from people who still think of college as a glorified junior high school.

Most Wesleyan students, I feel sure, would not support such activities. Most are interested in being involved in world, college, and community affairs, and do not need to participate in Mickey Mouse games that benefit no one.

Needless to say, the practice of upperclass women's "raiding" the freshman dormitory has come to a screeching halt, if I have any say in the matter. Such "raids" are entirely inconsistent with the nature of higher education today.

If any of you have special grievances or a claim for damages against individuals, please feel free to see me about it. I regret I ever lent my support to such a sordid affair."

CARD OF THANKS

Mrs. McKinney, house-mother of Nash Hall, wishes to express her thanks to all the members of the Wesleyan community who expressed their sympathy in the recent death of her sister.

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WESLEYAN STUDENTS
 Opinions Published Do Not Necessarily Represent Those Of Wesleyan College.