



The Decree

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 217
Rocky Mount, N. C.

Non-Profit Organization

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 5

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7, 1969

Decree, SGA Compromise; Campus Controversy Settled

By DAN DAVIS

On Wednesday, October 25, Ed Smith, Editor of THE DECREE, received a letter from John Roberts, SGA President, informing him that "the funds of THE DECREE have been withdrawn until further notice." In his letter Roberts specified no reasons for his action, but quoted Article VI, Section 2, paragraph a, sub-paragraph 2, of the SGA Constitution as justification for his action: "the president shall be responsible for enforcing the Student Government Association Constitution and for executing the program and business of the Student Government Association."

This was the first in a long series of events which graphically

demonstrated the ideological schism existing within the Wesleyan student body.

The Senate met Wednesday night and, by unanimous vote, recommended that Roberts revoke his stoppage of DECREE funds.

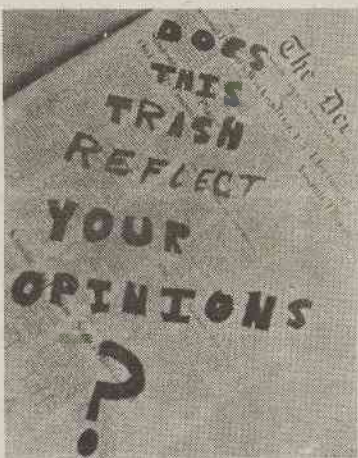
Finding himself unable to compromise his sincere convictions, Roberts refused the Senate's suggestion. While it seemed that the campus would have to wait for the judgement of the student Supreme Court, several petitions were circulated around campus demanding radical changes in DECREE policy and staff.

It was in this atmosphere of bitter anticipation that the SGA leader and the DECREE Editor held a dialogue in the presence of the Dean of Students at 1 p.m. Friday, October 3. The press was not admitted to this conference, but according to statements released by both student leaders after the meeting there was "no change" in the position of either faction.

Dean Wilde, anxious about the increase of "polarization" brought about by this session,

organized another meeting, which was held at 3:30 p.m. the same day. Present at this confrontation were Smith, Roberts, and Wilde, as well as Maria Gargano, Jim Gill, Julie Robinson, C. B. Mottershead, and this reporter.

Wilde opened the discussion by pointing out that, while he had acted up to that point as a listener only, he could "no longer remain neutral," owing to the depth of the rift. "We're in for trouble," said Wilde,



Don Papke expressed his opinions graphically.

"if the conflict is not settled soon."

All present were impressed by the fact that two powerful foes would inevitably test their strength on each other if some compromise were not reached.

The major complaint voiced by John Roberts was that "THE DECREE is not independent and does have responsibility to the student body" and therefore should be extremely careful to "present both sides of any important issue." Roberts believed THE DECREE had not shown willingness or ability to do so in the past.

Smith countered by asserting, "We don't back anyone in a news story." He also reminded Roberts that it is impossible for anyone to anticipate the impact of every news story, feature, or editorial in advance. He stated that a newspaper's job is to cover subjective statements objectively and that he believed that THE DECREE had been doing its job adequately. Smith closed by adding with an air of concern and apology, "Every editor makes a mis-

take, though."

In an attempt to reconcile this conflict, Dean Wilde, having "sympathies on both sides," offered the following recommendations:

John Roberts should:

- 1.) immediately rescind his withdrawal of DECREE funds;
- 2.) promise to refrain from such tactics in the future;
- 3.) take any complaints that he might have about THE DECREE to the Publications Commission for consideration;
- and 4.) exert his influence to halt impeachment proceedings currently being taken against Ed Smith.

In turn, Ed Smith should:

- 1.) keep in closer contact with THE DECREE's faculty advisor and with the SGA Publications Commission;
- 2.) "be a little more sensitive to the newspaper's clientele," remembering that its audience is captive;
- 3.) "stop the use of four-letter words;"
- and 4.) face the public relations problem of "image" by changing the atmosphere of laziness and loafing which ap-

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Officer Shearin Harrassed Here

On the night of September 26 the campus security officer for Wesleyan was the object of harassment by an unknown number of students.

In an interview with Dean Wilde, it was learned that the incident had resulted in his being called in, although the incident had not been of sufficient proportion to justify his intervention, Dean Wilde said. He believes that this sort of thing happens quite often, and that such incidents can and should be referred to as "just pranks."

He said there were 10 or 12 students involved, and that what they were doing consisted of congregating around and rocking the police car, and calling the officer names.

Dean Wilde said that he arrived on the scene at the power plant at about 1:30 a.m., and that from then until about 2 a.m. he drove around looking for the trouble-makers. Two cars were stopped and their occupants questioned, but no one was charged, due to a lack of evidence.

Officer Shearin, the campus security officer, estimated the number of students harassing him at 50 or 60, but agreed with Wilde in thinking that it was a prank. Shearin was very reluctant to make any comment about the incident, but said that it had included rock-throwing and name-calling on the students' part.

Both Shearin and Wilde said that they had suspicions as to who the pranksters were but that they believed no measures should be taken against the students.

Harvard Senior Speaks 'Radical Humanism' Subject Of Lecture

Addressing the Wesleyan community in the convocations on Human Ecology, Harvard senior Mark Gerzon discussed and defined the philosophy of

Rising Tuition Costs Explained

Students frequently complain about the rising cost tuition. "Why does it have to go up every year?" We seldom stop to think that rising costs in areas other than education would naturally increase education's expenses. As it stands now, only 65% of the student's total education is paid by his tuition. Where does the other 35% come from? Answering this question was the purpose of a meeting in Winston-Salem on September 24.

Thirteen business representatives and officers of the North Carolina Foundation of Church-Related Colleges spoke to 25 student representatives of the member colleges. Private institutions of higher learning, (Continued on Page 2)

Radical Humanism and the need for a radical ecology.

"Radical means to go to the root of man himself," says Mark. "The goal is complete fulfillment of the potentialities in man; radical humanism is putting man in the center of priority. This is not to diminish the importance of the moon shot or the military--it is merely to put those things in their proper perspective, and to put man in top priority."

Says Mark, "Man doesn't come into contact with his natural roots anymore, so it is necessary to change man to cope with the world around him; this is radical ecology. And this is what is needed."

Mark, a senior Social Studies major, has written a book. THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING concerning the Chicago convention disturbances and youth dissent in general. He has spent his junior year touring Europe and Asia, living in with students and families. He was solicited for the Human Ecology program after an appearance on the Today Show.

Attorney General Answers Charges

By JOHN HINNANT

In an interview this week with SGA Attorney General Jim Gill, he replied to the charges of "strong arm tactics" leveled against him in a statement by Tom Mowbray in last week's DECREE. After the election in South Hall on September 25 which Gill described as a "farce", he conferred with John Roberts, SGA President, in Roberts room on first floor. Also in the room were four transfer students from Ferrum College. According to Mr. Gill this is the first time he had ever talked to these students.

After the disturbance on second floor, Bob Leyda came down and he and Gill went up to Leyda's room on third floor to discuss Leyda's previous actions that night. Minutes later, after hearing some shouts from second floor, Gill went to Tom Mowbray's room on second floor to ask for quiet as a resident of South Hall.

Meanwhile, the transfer students from Ferrum College and SGA President John Roberts came up from first floor. While Gill and Mowbray were conferring

with each other in the doorway, one of the Ferrum students made the threat to "step off the campus" to settle the matter. Gill then asked the student to refrain from any further comments and returned to the third floor, he said.

In reference to Mowbray's statements, Gill said, "If we must talk about reality in Mr. Mowbray's concept, I think we should realize that he did not recognize the situations as it correctly occurred."

Concerning the editorial policy of THE DECREE, Gill believes that the editorials should be based on facts. He states, "Mr. Cumpler should be reminded that the truth is much stronger than irresponsible charges. The references to Milton that one has the right to make a mistake and be forgiven can certainly apply to Mr. Crumpler."

In conclusion, Attorney General Gill stated, "I have not and do not advocate the use of 'strong-arm-tactics'. In my office as Attorney General, it is ethically and legally wrong to use any form of intimidation for any purpose whatsoever."