



# Over Troubled Water

By BRUCE F. WRIGHT

Once upon a time, in a small but mighty kingdom, the sun shone brightly, the birds chirped merrily, and the sweet fragrance of learning permeated the atmosphere. Life and success in this kingdom did not come on the principle of achievement. Its god was Excellence.

Academia was a unique kingdom. Only the fit and the promising were allowed to enter. But entrance into the kingdom was only the beginning, once an individual was allowed

to enter, he encountered a rigorous intellectual journey of ten difficult, sometimes punitive. The individual who failed or was unwilling to struggle was faced with the reality that Excellence was god, and he must strive towards godliness.

But then news arrived from other kingdoms, news of economic difficulties and the devastating results, thereof. Academia found itself in an awkward situation. Many people were choosing to enter other kingdoms, kingdoms in which

life was easier, where accomplishment and "success" did not require such struggling.

And so there came the most terrible crisis which can afflict the minds of men--a time when the gods began to change. Academia changed its laws.

The inherent right of man to fail, as well as to succeed, was removed; and the journey through the kingdom was made less difficult. Less was required of those who succeeded.

Of course, Academia was not the only kingdom which these changes were made. Nevertheless, those who had struggled so long to build Academia into a uniquely responsible kingdom were sad and disillusioned. A god who is no longer worshipped cannot survive. And so it was, that Excellence fell victim to the Ides of March. Their god was dead, and his replacement was an entity which defied a name or any fixed standard of purpose.

And so Academia, or whatever it was, continued. The leaders of the kingdom hoped that through the killing of their god, economic stability would be regained and more people would choose Academia as their home.

At this point, the history of Academia becomes confused. It is not certain whether or not the leaders had attained the goal. And to this day, the fate of Academia remains a mystery.

The killing of a god is a very serious thing. We all hope that Academia revised its sense of direction, and once again set its eyes upon Excellence. May the god of Excellence bless Academia and all other kingdoms who have forsaken Him. And forgive them, for they know not what they do.

## A Note Of Thanks To The Wesleyan Community

"Every man is more than just himself; he also represents the unique, the very special point at which the worlds phenomena intersect only once in this way

and never again. That is why every man's story is important and worthy of every consideration."

Herman Hesse

Considering these words we would like to share with you Myra Dean's thanks for North Carolina Wesleyan's consideration at the loss of her brother.

To all the student body at N.C. Wesleyan:

Words can't begin to express my feelings for all the letters, cards, and flowers that were received from Wesleyan upon the death of my brother, Ronnie. I wish to say "thank you" to everyone.

I wish everyone good, and again I want to say that your kindness displayed has helped me to return to Wesleyan with a better feeling and a knowledge that people do care.

Myra Dean



RONNIE DEAN

## Senate Approves Hayek And Shoop For '71 Orientation

Beth Speake presiding. Members Present: Joan Martin, J. C. Kermon, Debbie Jennings, Joe Vincent, Bruce Miller, Patty Sayers, Dave Forest, Connie Behnken, Wilbert Harrison, Beth Speake, Charlie Read and

Doug Kozlowski. Reports from Standing Committees: Patio Committee: On April 8 at 7:30 pictures, slides, etc. of the proposed patio plans will be presented. So far, the patio project has cost about

\$38.00 (for film, supplies, etc.) "Nominal fees" as of yet have not been decided upon.

Allen Winter was present seeking Senate approval of his appointment for Chairman of the Orientation Committee. Dennis Hayek and Russ Shoop, due to their work and cooperation in already getting orientation off to a start, were appointed co-chairmen of the said committee. A motion was made to this effect by Debbie Jennings and was carried by a majority vote of the Senators present.

There was discussion on the method of selecting nominees for the Leadership and Service Awards. As recommended by Dean Cordts, the Senate would vote for 3 males and 3 females who would then be presented to the student body to be voted upon. The Senate, feeling that it could not properly represent the entire Student body's opinion, rejected the above suggestion by Dean Cordts. The election will be turned over to the Election Committee with hopes that the method of choosing winners of these awards will be carried on as in previous years.

Bob Leyda appeared before  
(Continued On Page 3)

## Editorial

When considering the phenomena that occurred in last week's faculty meeting, we are forced to concern ourselves with the implications that lie behind such a ruling.

Probably the first charge against the languages is the statement that the brief study of them is irrelevant. While this hackneyed term fits well in almost any context, we wonder if those who charge the implication of that accusation. It is hard to conceive how anyone conscientious of his relationship to the universe around him can seriously believe that the study of the language of another culture is irrelevant. There's little need to elaborate upon the fading of the time barriers in the work in which we live. Any faculty who endorses the traveling in May Term, must also be aware of the immense educational value of exposure to a foreign culture. With the encouragement we receive to travel, it is difficult to comprehend how that same body can eliminate so important a tool as a requirement for language.

Perhaps just as harsh as the charge of irrelevancy is the accusation that the languages are difficult and are a barrier to graduation. Perhaps this is so. But then, just as foreign language is an impairment for some students, so is every other requirement. We wonder why Religion 1, six semesters of Convocations and four of Physical Education, Math, science, and English 11 still remain. It is certain that if enough students were polled, nearly all of the above requirements would disappear.

It is disappointing to realize that the majority of the faculty is so whipped by student and administration pressure, that they can honestly believe that this was the best course of action they could have taken.

## Letters To The Editor

To the DECREE Editor and the student body:

March 21 through 23 was a trying time in the life of our college community. Almost all of us were, in one way or another, affected by the sudden death of one of the members of our community.

I am writing this for several reasons, not the least of which is to raise the question: What have we all learned from this sad experience? Certainly, we've been impressed by our vulnerability -- the stark fact that such an accident could occur to any one of us. The message is clear. Life is, indeed, precious. We would all be wise to cherish this great gift of life, to guard and protect it. We are, hopefully, more conscious of the need to follow and honor all those things which tend to sustain and fulfill life, and to avoid that which endangers or threatens life or makes it less worth living.

Another reason for this letter is to commend and praise those students who came forth in this time of crisis, responding maturely and magnificently to the many needs which had to be met. The students who saw to it that emergency needs were met immediately after the accident, those who met and worked with Ronnie's father, those who took

the initiative in organizing and carrying out a most appropriate memorial service, all those who journeyed to Fuquay-Varina on March 23, and all others who, in many different ways, helped in this sad time--all deserve our praise.

Have we learned something else? Though difficult to put in writing, I'll try to report on the nature of a conversation Mrs. Hagins and I had on our way back home last Tuesday. We concluded that the concern and care which came forth so freely during the tragedy was wonderful to behold. We also concluded that it would be even more wonderful if these feelings could be with us most of the time, without needing a crisis or tragedy to evoke them.

The simple kindness and concern for others which we have witnessed, if present in more of our ordinary, every-day behavior, would be a healing balm for all our wounds, from the slight scratches to the deep cuts which we often experience in our relationships with others and in our work. This magic of caring need not be only a once-a-year phenomenon. We could --yes we could--have it with us most of the time. Just simple kindness.

If this recent tragedy has  
(Continued On Page 4)

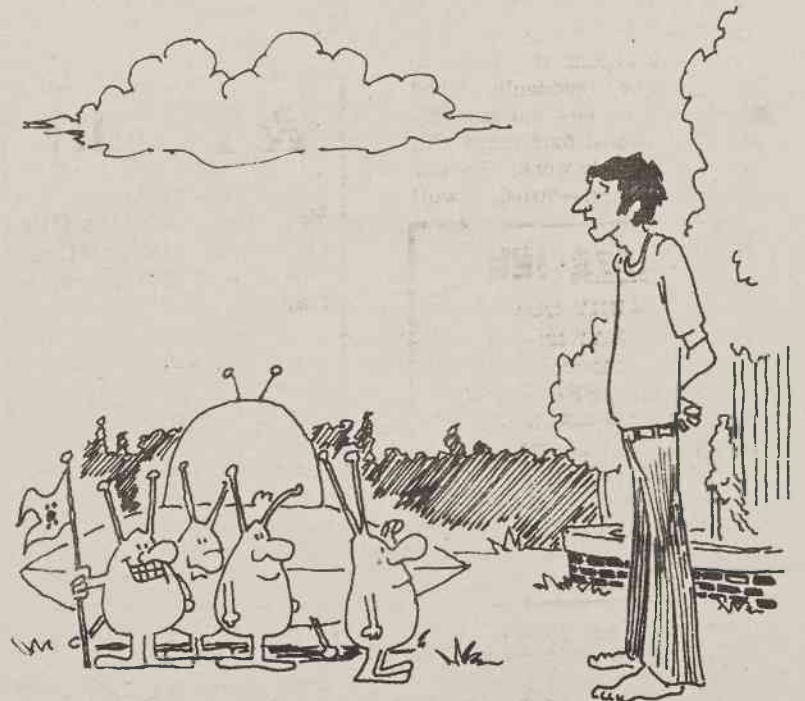
## The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

EDITOR ..... Julia Robinson  
ASSISTANT EDITOR ..... Marshall Old  
BUSINESS MANAGER ..... Chuck Martin  
ADVERTISING MANAGER ..... Chuck Martin  
PHOTOGRAPHER ..... Gary Christopher  
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Gail Mahe  
ARTIST ..... Will Thomson  
SPORTS WRITER ..... Charles Rogers  
CIRCULATION ..... Gail Mahe

Business Address: Box 3056, Wesleyan College  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27801

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



Gee, fellas, I'd like to be of service, but when they dropped the language requirement I decided I didn't need one.