

WHAT IS EDUCATION?

By Chris Bragg
Decree staff

What is education? As a member of the Wesleyan College community, and co-editor of the Decree, I believe we owe it to ourselves to take a closer look at the definition and purpose of education.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines education as, "The obtaining of knowledge or skill through such a process; schooling."

As college students, we tend to concentrate more on passing and meeting requirements for graduation than on gaining knowledge or skill. So much emphasis is placed upon successfully meeting the bare minimum requirements that education is shoved aside or thought of only as an afterthought.

Who is responsible for this lack of emphasis upon education? Does the blame lie entirely with the

administration and instructors, or are the students equally responsible for their education?

I believe education should be a joint effort between students and instructors. The instructors must push their students to the limit. As educators, it is the responsibility of our instructors to expect and accept only the highest quality of work from students. Instructors must set high goals for their students to achieve, and should not be satisfied when they have to compromise their goals for the sake of passing students. There is more to education than passing tests.

The student also shares equal responsibility for his or her education. The education process does not end in the classroom. Education is a twenty-four hour continuing

process. Students should strive to surpass the expectations of their instructors and settle for nothing less than producing first rate work.

The education process is at its best when students and instructors join together and push each other to their uttermost limitations. In a situation like we have at Wesleyan, the small private college where instructors and students have a chance to interact, education should be a major concern.

But is this necessarily the case?

Do students strive to produce first rate work?

Are instructors setting standards high enough to make students put forth their best effort?

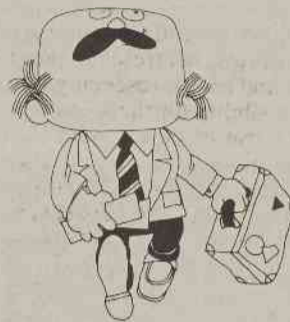
The answer to each of these questions can only be found within each one of us. In an institution dedicated to higher learning, is Wesleyan seeking to improve upon education or remain at a level where passing grades are all that matter?

OPINION

Wesleyan for the weekend

By Dawn Layfield
Decree staff

If Wesleyan is noted for anything, above all else it would be the fact that it is a suitcase college. It seems as though everyone chooses to be a conformist by packing the ol' suitcase and heading for home each weekend. Of course this is due to the fact that nothing is ever going on, right?



One way to solve this problem is to have suggestions about probable events floating around, let the Social Commission, the SGA, or even your own class officers know your feelings and suggestions. Speak up, everybody does about everything else, so why not this? A prime example of the lack of interest in the social life of the campus would be homecoming weekend. Many events were planned such as the pig pickin', which was the one event that went fairly well, soccer and volleyball games, the dance, and finally the Mudfest. This is not to say that everything was a flop because it wasn't but, the amount of interest and attendance had a lot to be desired.

With almost 400 fulltime students on campus there is no excuse for inactivity or complaining. There are several activities planned by the Intramural Department, such as the golf tournament (held on October 24), the annual supersports contest, football, and volleyball. If there is not an activity planned that you would like to participate in then VOICE YOUR OPINION! Ann Roberts, the Intramural director, is open to suggestions, please feel free to contact her at North Hall. Remember, these are YOUR college years so make the best of them!

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The arrival of Commencement is drawing nigh. May 8, 1982 will soon arrive and for a number of seniors, Wesleyan will become a past experience instead of a daily reality.

All seniors who plan to graduate in May need to obtain a graduation application from the Registrar's Office. Graduation applications are required for graduation and must be returned to the Registrar's Office before December 1, 1981.

Please remember that Convocations is a graduation requirement. If any senior is

uncertain of their Convocations credit, they should check with the Registrar's Office for confirmation. Please be doubly careful that you have completed all requirements for graduation.

Consult your graduation advisory and your advisor for insurance against a problem arising in May that will disqualify you from graduation. Pre-registration is a perfect opportunity to check on your academic standing. If you have any questions after consulting your advisor, please check with the Registrar.

Congressman Salutes Sadat

By Congressman L.H. Fountain

Losing a friend is always sad and difficult. And that tragedy is made more profound when the friend also happened to be one of the leading world statesmen of our time.

I am, of course, referring to Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat, the slain President of Egypt. That such brave and distinguished leaders of the free world are subject to cowardly assassination seems, sadly, to be the order of the day. For we have only to look back a few short months to recall the infamous attacks upon President Reagan and the Pope--attacks which can alter the course of history.

But, if we are to learn a lesson from this most recent abomination, it should be that today, more than ever, the world cries out for strong statesmen like Anwar Sadat--a man who courageously and forthrightly followed a course of peace.

On a more personal note, I had the honor and privilege of meeting with President Sadat twice in his home in Egypt and many times on Capitol Hill. And from our first meeting, it was easy to see President Sadat was gifted with a warmth, inner strength, and sense of mission which few men possess.

At one such meeting in Egypt, representing the House Foreign Affairs Committee, of which I am a senior member, I had an opportunity to express our feelings about the issues of the day as well as to see a more personal and human side of the Sadat household; a home not much different in spirit, I expect, from yours or mine. I opened our discussion by telling President Sadat that our Mission had come to exchange views and facilitate efforts toward peace in the Middle East in every way we could.

With the brutal assassination of President Sadat, America has lost a truly valued and trusted friend. In the early 1970's, Sadat courageously moved Egypt from heavy dependence upon the Soviet Union to a position which enabled our two countries to begin working together for peace in that volatile part of the world. President Sadat soon realized that heavy dependence on the Russians surely meant eventual enslavement by the Russians.

A man of vision, not afraid to take risks, President Sadat initiated historic peace talks with Israel, which culminated in the signing of the Camp David Accords.

Whether or not Sadat's

successor, President Mubarak, can maintain Egypt's chosen course remains to be seen. Mubarak is supposed to be staunchly anti-communist; and his position as President Sadat's Vice President and right-hand man should stand him in good stead.

But clearly, the United States must take responsible steps to insure that countries like Libya--run by the madman Quadhafi--and Russia keep their meddling hands off Egypt.

The civilized world mourns the passing of Anwar al-Sadat, a man of leadership, courage, and wisdom. Millions have benefited from his brief stay on this ever-shrinking planet.

WESLEYAN'S PHANTOM DINERS

Restaurants are very important to a college student who would like to have a good meal once in a while. We, as Phantom Diners are here to inform you of area food-places that may be to your advantage. These restaurants should be within a college students economic budget and are in the city of Rocky Mount.

First of all, we must tell you the ingenious system we developed. There are between six and nine categories in which to grade. Each category will be graded either as Excellent, Good, Fair, or Blah and will be followed by our opinions of each. The overall conclusion of the restaurant rating will on a scale from 1 to 10. This is figured out by a secret formula known only by my partner and I.

Mr. Dunderbak's "Bavarian Pantry", (Tarrytown Mall) ATMOSPHERE - Good

We did not care for the variety of music. If you are there for more than an hour the music in the background repeats itself. It is a nice place to relax during happy hour and shoot the bull with a friend.

STYLE - Good

It has a European flare which reflects the theme of the restaurant perfectly. We both thought that the flags of various nations sort of spiced up the atmosphere, too.

WAITRESS AVAILABILITY - Excellent

RESPONSE - Excellent

The waitresses were always wanting and willing to please the customers. They really stayed on the go.

PRICES - Fair

We found that many of the

skimpy specialty places are a bit expensive. But the happy hour provided on their draft beers and wines can get you so happy that you may not even care about prices.

FOOD - Good

Among other things, their choices of specialty foods and cheese are very good.

OUR TIP - Excellent

We tipped according to the profits of the availability of our waitresses response.

On our scale of 1 to 10, overall. Mr. Dunderbaks rated a very high 8.2.

Rib-Bits "Ribs Our Specialty", (Westridge Village Shopping Center) ATMOSPHERE - Good

Again, there was something wrong with the background music. Here, the soft melodic music contradicted the style of the restaurant. It is a nice place to take the mistress, family or semi-date.

STYLE - Good

The country western style suited the items on the menu perfectly. We must also point out that the waitresses uniforms were also western which spiced up the atmosphere.

WAITRESS AVAILABILITY - Blah

RESPONSE - Fair

No comment! We refrain from such adjectives.

PRICES - Good

Very reasonable.

SALAD BAR - Excellent

The salad bar had a good variety of fresh produce and salad toppings--very appetizing.

FOOD - Good

The meal was definitely filling and tasty. If there was a separate category for

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GET INVOLVED

By Rusty Styron
Decree staff

As the leaves on the trees begin to change colors and the weather slowly grows cooler, the changing signs of winter are quite visible. However, some unseen signs are too apparent, although not visible. These are the signs of our students' attitudes.

As a new student on this campus, I am pleased to find that the majority of students are whole-heartily involved with one or more activities, devoting their time and efforts to areas of extreme interest to them.

Yet, that small majority remains behind the scenes. These few students who take it upon themselves to complain about one thing or another, or

who verbalize statements criticizing various activities, need to indeed partake in their own excuses.

I have heard the expression, "All talk and no action," once too many times by someone who felt he had nothing better to do than to run down the efforts of other students.

There are plenty of clubs and active organizations on this campus so that every student regardless of interest, may get himself involved. And if a group of students should desire to start a new organization on campus, one can quickly be established through the proper channels.

Why should the students who diligently work for the better of the college have to

constantly be put down by a select group who feel the way they do. Your college years are perhaps the most important and well spent years of your life.

Opportunity exists for everyone to become involved. Through involvement, we all can grow mentally, as well as spiritually. go out and find that club which interests you and become an active participant.

Put your suggestions to work, do not make others work harder just to avoid the negative comments. After all, one who criticizes, has no right to do so until he has tried, in vain, as diligently as some of the truly dedicated and hard working students of our campus community.