

EDITORIAL

The Wesleyan Scholar

By Chris Bragg
Editor

Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "American Scholar" was written and delivered to graduates of Harvard in 1837. An essay written almost 150 years ago could hardly be relevant in today's modern world of atomic energy and high computer technology, but nothing is further from the truth. Emerson writes that "the office of the scholar is to cheer, to raise, and guide men by showing them facts amidst appearances." Each and everyone of us at Wesleyan are scholars or potential scholars. And as scholars we have a responsibility to our fellow man.

But why are most of us here? Why does anyone go to college today? Are we here to educate ourselves, to become scholars and leaders of our country and world, or are we using college as a means to make money in future years?

In a world that is filled with political strife, wars, terrorism, economic recession, depression and a nuclear arms race that threatens the extinction of our planet, don't we have a responsibility to our fellow man if not at least to ourselves? The four or more years of education following high school make us special.

We have an opportunity here at Wesleyan to gain a greater understanding of ourselves and the world we live in. I said an opportunity because its just that. Just because you walk across that stage and get your diploma doesn't mean you learned a thing. By receiving a diploma, all you're doing is fulfilling requirements set down by the college. It doesn't say anywhere in the handbook or catalogue that you have to retain or practice what you learn in college. All you have to do is pass that course, get them hours, and you're out of here.

But when you walk across that stage on a May morning and accept that diploma, will you be ready to accept the

GLAMOUR'S

Top Ten

N.C. Wesleyan co-eds are invited to participate in GLAMOUR magazine's 1983 Top Ten College Women Competition.

Young women from colleges and universities throughout the country will compete in GLAMOUR's search for ten outstanding students. A panel of GLAMOUR editors will select the winners on the basis of their solid records of achievement in academic studies and-or in extracurricular activities on campus or in the community.

The 1983 Top Ten College Women will be featured in GLAMOUR's August College Issue. The ten winners will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

Anyone who is interested in entering the search should contact Nancy Smith in the Student Life Office for more information or for an application.

The deadline for submitting an application to GLAMOUR is December 1, 1982.

responsibilities of the scholar? The majority of us have grown up in the 70's, the decade of the self. Following the revolutionary and reactionary 60's and early 70's, it seems everybody dropped public concerns and turned inward. There were thousands of books written on how to learn more about yourself. Transcendental Meditation was seen as a way of getting "into" yourself. Only a handful of people were protesting for nuclear disarmament in the 70's.

Under Presidents Ford and Carter our country drifted with no aim or goal in mind. We as a society were only looking out for ourselves. Well my friends, it's time to wake up. Look around you. See those people in your classes, the cafeteria, the dorms? The time has come for us to take control. By 1986 over 50 percent of the U.S. population will be over 65 or will be becoming aware of reaching retirement age. Who is left to run this country? We are! We are now of age to begin influencing and changing the world we live in.

Our generation is responsible for cleaning up the mess we are now in. As future scholars it is our responsibility to be prepared to lead our country and world. We must use our college days wisely and prepare ourselves for the coming years. We must not only be prepared to lead, but we have to actively seek out responsibility and leadership positions. Why couldn't someone from Wesleyan become a senator, a general, a Supreme Court member, or even President? They can because someone has to lead our country, and as scholars we should be able leaders. Emerson's words from 1837 are relevant even today, but we must put his words into practice before there is no tomorrow.

Fighting Crime in America

By Congressman
L. H. Fountain

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- No one needs to be reminded that crime in America has reached an alarming rate. We all know that. From the President of the United States on down, crime affects everyone, no one is immune.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (an arm of the Justice Department), almost 25 million American households were touched by crime in 1981. That alarming rate means that 30 percent of all family households were hit by crime last year, the same unacceptably high rate as in 1980.

In fact, the Justice Department says that today's American family is more likely to have a son or daughter, a mother or father, attacked in a serious, violent crime--a crime like rape, robbery, or aggravated assault--than to have a fire in the home or have a family member hurt in a car accident.

There is no easy victory in the war against crime. But, there is a strong feeling shared by many Americans that for too long criminals in this country have been excessively coddled at the expense of law-abiding citizens in general and at the expense of the victims of crime in particular.

In the Congress, there are several pending bills aimed at deterring crime and protecting innocent citizens from those who have no respect for the law.

From mandatory sentencing for the use of a

firearm in the commission of a Federal felony, to tightening of prosecution and control of violent and dangerous youth offenders, to the strengthening of Federal arson investigations, to tougher narcotics law enforcement, to cracking down on organized crime, to reforming the present bail system, to the newly introduced Victim and Witness Protection Act, the Congress is continuing to search for responsible solutions on a number of fronts.

The recently introduced Comprehensive Victim and Witness Protection and Assistance Act of 1982, for example, is designed to address the overlooked needs of crime victims and witnesses.

I am an original co-sponsor of a bill which addresses the key concerns of crime victims and witnesses--especially their personal safety, fair treatment, and restitution.

It's an unfortunate fact of life that victims of crime and those who testify against criminals are often intimidated and threatened by criminals. If enacted into law, the Victim and Witness Protection Act will strengthen Federal prohibition of the use of force against victims of crime and against witnesses to crime. The bill would also tighten the rules against nonviolent harassment.

Additionally, this legislation would provide that crime victims and witnesses receive better treatment from the Federal justice system itself. For example, before

sentencing a convicted defendant, it will require that a Federal judge receive full information about the impact of the crime on the victim.

Finally, the bill would encourage financial restitution to the victim. Too often, victims of serious crime have been badly neglected and treated as second class citizens. And, where appropriate, this bill would require the convicted criminal (not the government) to repay or otherwise compensate his victim.

Furthermore, this legislation directs the Attorney General of the United States to report to the Congress on the need for legislation to prevent a Federal felon from deriving profits from books, movies, or stories about his crimes. Clearly, the time has long since come to show the criminal for what he really is, an enemy of society, not a movie or television attraction.

No one bill or method of approach will solve our crime problem. In fact, we can only begin to adequately handle this problem when every concerned citizen cooperates with local, state, and Federal law enforcement officials to effectively enforce the laws already on the books.

Laws are meaningless unless our people in general take an active--even fearless--interest in seeking responsible enforcement.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Comprehensive Victim and Witness Protection was signed into law by President Reagan earlier this month.

Resisters See Registration Failing

Draft registration isn't working, according to some of the non-registrants undergoing or awaiting prosecution. "The Government... can't possibly prosecute us all," said Benjamin H. Sasway of Vista, Calif. Sasway was the first indicted for non-registration, and the second to be prosecuted.

"The trials are just a

desperate move to intimidate people into turning themselves in and compromising their moral and religious beliefs," said Russell Martin, another draft resister, who was registered against his will by a U.S. attorney in Iowa. "A few people are being crucified by an agency that refuses to admit defeat."

The General Accounting Office's latest figures show over 700,000 non-registrants. This is more than 20 times the entire population of Federal prisons. The overall compliance rate with registration is 93 percent, according to Selective Service. This is well below the 98 percent Selective Service officials have said must be reached for the system to be considered fair and effective. Even at the height of the Vietnam war, compliance with draft registration never fell below 98 percent.

The current prosecutions will raise the issue of illegal selective prosecution, said Martin. "I'm going to be prosecuted not because I didn't register for the draft, but because I publicly pointed out the failure of the program and the aggressive foreign policy behind it," he said. Martin was re-elected this spring as student body president of the University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Falls.

"(Draft registration) is a political law designed to force people into supporting policies that they would not support otherwise. It has nothing to do with national security," said Martin. "Non-registration forces a debate on foreign policy."

Other non-registrants agree. For them, non-registration is an act of conscience. "Draft registration is preparation for war," said Russell F. Ford, who was imprisoned before his trial when he refused bail. "I am not willing to sign my life over to the Government that brought us Vietnam, Watergate and the Trident submarine. I am not willing to withhold my protest... until the nuclear arms race has reached its logical conclusion in a nuclear holocaust... I am defending a view that wars, like poverty and prison, are neither necessary nor inevitable. They transgress the human spirit and ought to be abolished," he said.

The Internal Revenue Service is helping Selective Service to enforce registration. In mid-August, IRS mailed warning letters to an initial 33,000 suspected non-registrants born in 1963, said Roscoe L. Egger Jr., Commissioner of Internal Revenue. These names were drawn from a list of 250,000 names IRS found by checking its files with Selective Service lists of non-registrants. Egger said IRS planned to mail notices to the others, and later provide up to 200 names to Selective Service. These, he said, "will be selected on a random basis" from those who fail to register after receiving warnings mailed by IRS.

In late August, an amendment sponsored by Sen. Hayakawa (R-CA) and Rep. Solomon (R-NY) to the Defense Authorization Bill had passed both houses of Congress and was before President Reagan. The bill

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Registering with the Selective Service on your 18th Birthday

Nothing could be easier. Within a month of your 18th birthday, go to the nearest U.S. Post Office. Pick up the simple registration form and fill it out. Then hand it to the postal clerk. That's all there is to it.

It's quick.
It's easy. And it's the law.



National Headquarters,
Selective Service System, Washington, D.C. 20435