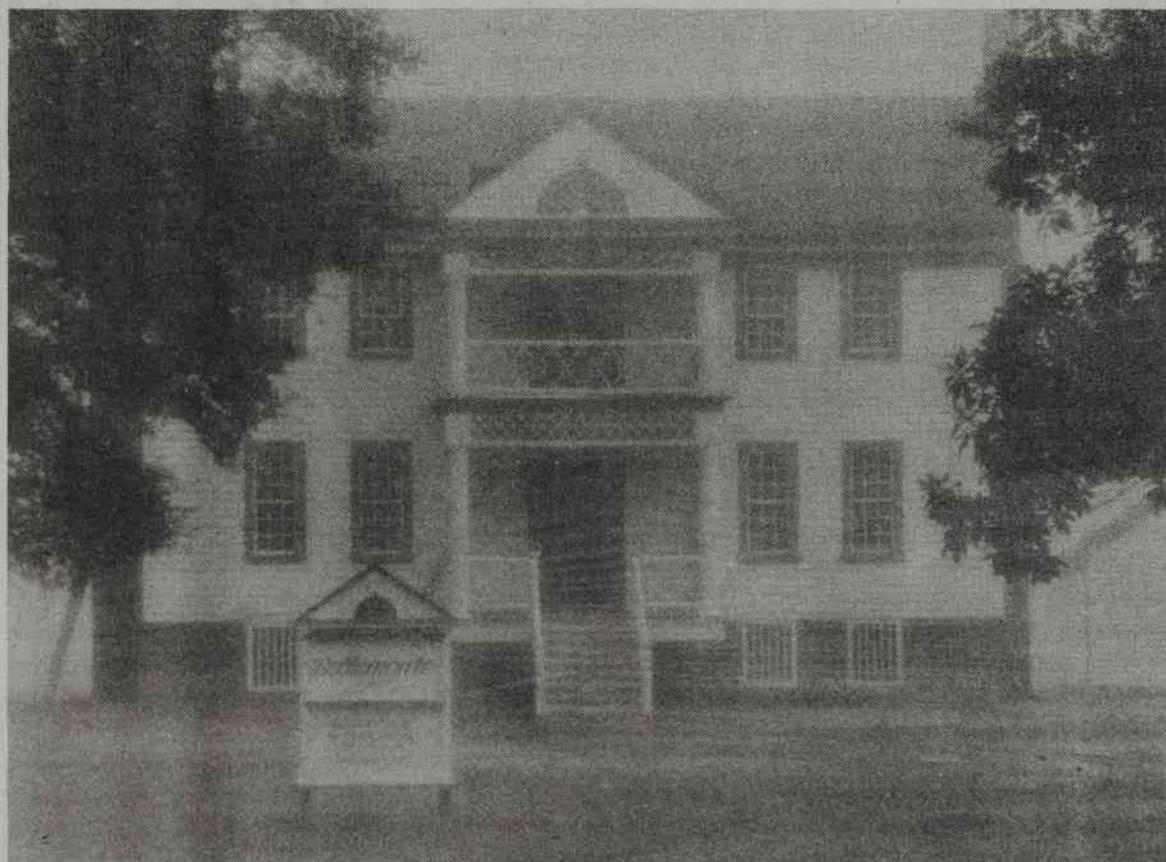


# The Decree

VOL. 9, NO. 1

North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, N.C.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1993



BELLEMONT HOUSE GREET VISITORS AT ENTRANCE TO CAMPUS

## Bellemonte now houses offices

By KIMBERLY CURSEEN

The Bellemonte House, located in front of the main entrance of Wesleyan's campus, is now the new home of the Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Bellemonte was originally built by Dr. John F. Bellamy and his wife, Ann Nicholson, active Methodists, in 1817. It eventually became the property of his grandson, Joseph Bellamy. Then in 1918 the house was acquired by M.C. Braswell, whose heirs donated land for the establish-

ment of North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1956.

Bellemonte House was not originally in front of Wesleyan's campus, but was moved there in 1988 in honor of the Braswell family and for its historical value.

Bellemonte was once part of a plantation that owned slaves. Because of this, the house has bothered some students who said that because this campus considers itself an equal opportunity college, a "monument to slavery" is offensive.

"This shows me much of

nothing has changed here in the Old South," one student commented. "What is even worse, I have to go there for Work Study."

Not all students and faculty see a problem with the house. In fact, the majority of people contacted feel that the house is a historical monument and should be preserved for that fact alone.

One student noted in defense of Bellemonte, "The house, I don't think, is any problem. It is a part of history and slavery is a fact of history. It is a symbol of creating Wesleyan."

## Dean resigns while college on vacation

By CECILIA CASEY

As North Carolina Wesleyan students moved into their rooms, met up with old friends, and found out how their summers went as well as what was new at Wesleyan, many were surprised to learn that Dr. Charles Bennett, dean of Academic Affairs, left Wesleyan College during the summer.

Dr. Robert S. Bussom replaced Bennett as acting dean officially on Aug. 1. Bennett left the position on June 15. Wesleyan President Dr. Leslie H. Garner said Bennett had discussed leaving Wesleyan with him so he was not surprised when Bennett did decide to leave.

Garner asked Bussom, a faculty member, to be acting dean sometime between June 15 and the start of July. Because Bussom stepped up quickly there were no problems created by Bennett's leaving.

"I am extremely pleased with having Dr. Bussom as the academic dean because he has great respect from the faculty and

staff," Garner said.

"It was an honor to be asked to serve in a position like this," Bussom said.

Garner said it could take up to two years to decide on a permanent dean.

"We are going to take our time and not rush into getting a dean," he said. "We are going to look at who we are as a college so when we look for our dean we will be able to understand better who will fit the needs of Wesleyan College."

Bussom expressed a similar goal. "It's critical that the college develops a vision for itself and accepts a direction that we can work for, and then enter a strategy that manages that vision," he said.

"We need to resolve some issues before we commit to a new dean," he added. "With a vision and an active strategy, the college will be able to accomplish our goal which is to help students earn a solid liberal arts education."

Bussom felt it was important that he keep teaching and plans to do so.

## Local businesses visit campus

Every year businesses from Rocky Mount come to Wesleyan's campus to introduce themselves to the Wesleyan community, and on Sept. 2 the businesses opened their booths to students and faculty in a "Community Celebration."

Among some of the representatives were Pizza Hut, Chick Fil-A, O'Doul's non-alcoholic beer, Western Sizzlin, Days Inn, Coca Cola, and Mary Kay. There were not only booths for businesses but also volunteer or-

ganizations such as Habitat for Humanity, a program that builds houses for the low-income homeless, who have expressed a desire for Wesleyan's students to volunteer some of their time.

This year's Community Celebration featured a performance by Thang's Dojo, a group of karate students ranging in age from six to 40 who performed some of their exercises and precision routines.

Music was also provided by a country music radio station.



KAYE GIBBONS

## Award-winning novelist to hold Wesleyan reading

Award-winning novelist and Nash County native Kaye Gibbons will give the Third Eleanor Hoyt Smith Memorial Reading next Wednesday at 8:15 p.m. in Russell Chapel, a free program open to the public.

Gibbons published her fourth novel, *Charms for the Easy Life*, this past spring. She is also author of three previous, highly-praised novels, *Ellen Foster*, *A Virtuous Woman*, and *A Cure for Dreams*.

Born in Nash County in 1960, Gibbons graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill where she was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumna Award.