

Panelists' comments belittled students

By MARCY STOVER

During the symposium session, "Clarity and Charity: The Life of the Spirit and Liberal Arts Education," Sigrid Bonner and Kelly Wilson painted a picture of a place where sin abounds and the evils of hell are running rampant. Of course, these two were referring to North Carolina Wesleyan College with their vicious insults.

Bonner said that as a Resident Director at this college she sees widespread disregard for morals regarding sex, drugs, and alcohol use. Bonner further said that the students she encounters have a lack of respect for authority figures and the rules of the school.

While I agree with Bonner that some students drink, use drugs, and engage in sexual relations

with various partners, I do not agree that the solution to this is religion, morals, or values. In fact, I do not even believe that this is a problem.

Wesleyan appears to me to be a typical college. Perhaps drinking, casual sexual relations, and rebellion are not desirable to authority figures, but it does not seem to be the prevailing attitude of every North Carolina Wesleyan College student.

Another behavior of Wesleyan students of which Bonner disapproved was the "vulgar language" used, and she suggested that students use "colorful language" to express themselves. Bonner also said that students at North Carolina Wesleyan College are more interested in partying than studying.

Yes, this again is her opinion,

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and I will agree that everyone is entitled to have an opinion. However, I am beginning to wonder how Bonner can bear to be around people whose priorities are so twisted. I may be grossly misinformed, but I was under the impression that partying is found at every college and among people of all ages.

Perhaps Bonner believes that the drinking is wrong because it is excessive when compared to the average lifestyle of, for example, a 45-year-old. However, college is billed as the one and only time in your life when you can live life this way.

What Bonner did say should

be a top priority in the lives of North Carolina Wesleyan College students is visiting the chapel or church and having bible study groups. To this I ask, what if you don't believe in God? Surely Bonner realizes that not everyone believes in God. It was not a prerequisite for entering this college. Bonner claims that students do not respect authority figures, however, it is disrespectful of anyone to assume that everyone believes in some higher being.

Wilson said that without morals there is no way a person can be educated. Therefore, in her opinion, North Carolina Wesleyan College needs to take an active part in reinforcing ethical decisions and morality that is learned through religion. Bonner also shared these beliefs and said that character should be built on morals.

What is meant by the term "morals"? I do not believe that there are any universal moral codes, although some may disagree. If there is not a universal moral code for everyone to follow, then just whose morals should the students of North Carolina Wesleyan College be following?

Should we be led by the United Methodist Church on the issue of morals? Or is there some other vague source of moral guidelines that these two were referring to? Morals can come from religion, family upbringing, and the culture that surrounds a person. I think it is myopic to believe that everyone has come from the same religious and family backgrounds. What about diversity?

Wilson said several times that Wesleyan has the reputation of being a "party school." I cannot dispute that the Rocky Mount community believes that to be true, for it is not something I know for sure.

However, I have never heard that rumor, and every student I mention this comment to laughs

at me for suggesting such an idea.

"If this is a party school, then why does everyone go home or to ECU for the weekends when they want to party?" asked R.J. Fornaro, sophomore and Resident Assistant of South Hall. One student who wishes to be anonymous said, "I don't drink very much, but I have drunk more at ECU than at Wesleyan. There are no real parties on the Wesleyan campus."

Nevertheless, Wilson spoke about students coming into class with hangovers and guys bragging about their latest sexual conquests. Yes, students come to classes with hangovers, but I have never heard a professor complain when a student makes it to class, only when one does not. As far as guys bragging about their sexual exploits, I have been here three years and nearly have perfect attendance for all three years, yet I have never experienced this type of behavior in any class I have been in.

My real reason for being shocked at the symposium session was that Wilson and Bonner did not care what impact their words had on the students who attended. In addition to this reason, the symposium was a public forum for the community to attend. It is conceivable that the head of the Methodist Church could have been sitting in a chair in the back, or maybe an official from another college or university.

I believe that Bonner and Wilson showed only one side of what students may be like at Wesleyan. Unfortunately, whomever was at the symposium may have carried that information away with them to be shared with countless others. On behalf of the students of North Carolina Wesleyan College, I thank Kelly Wilson and Sigrid Bonner for publicly degrading the image of the North Carolina Wesleyan College students.

College has reason for pride

By JESSICA BROWN

A new president, a new performing arts center, and a new vision have all arrived at Wesleyan.

With the inauguration of Dr. White, new senses of school pride and spirit have taken hold. All Wesleyan students, past and present, have a college they can

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be proud of. One couldn't help but feel proud during inauguration week, with all of the events to see and experience.

To hear about future plans, to sing the Wesleyan alma mater, to

see the history of Wesleyan in the gallery. All of this brings new hope to those who may have lacked hope in the past for the college.

Wesleyan is a great place. It is a campus where, if one becomes involved, everyone becomes familiar with them. It is a college where the president is not above carrying on a conversation or a game of hoops with a student. This is where friends are made that will last a lifetime, and lives are shaped through education in and out of the classroom.

Wesleyan is a chance for students who took a back seat in high school to rise to the head of the class. Everyone is somebody important here, and everyone has a voice.

Students should all be proud of Wesleyan, because it is ours for as long as we live. We will forever carry what we have here with us throughout our lives. This college is a part of each and every one of us, and we can be proud of our institution.

A time for reflection

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We don't have to be mechanistic servants. We can be free. But it's easier to waver around as Hamlet does, or to stay buried under false security as Elliot's speaker wants.

If progress of the human race is possible, don't you think it results from the individual's abilities to reason, imagine, and love? Don't you think these abilities result from his knowledge that he is free to reason, imagine, and love? Where do you think this knowledge comes from? *Seinfeld*? *Hamlet*? *Excellence in Business Communications*?

A lesson young people often don't want to learn is that this knowledge is not inherent; each of us will struggle just to learn how to ask questions. This struggle is what creates most of the joy and progress in human life. Not the arrival but the journey. A liberal arts education helps us back for the journey.

In our attempt to begin a con-

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