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THE DECREE

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Founders Day brings the "Old Rats" out of the barn

Founders Day 2003, A Day to Remember Our Past and Look to our Future

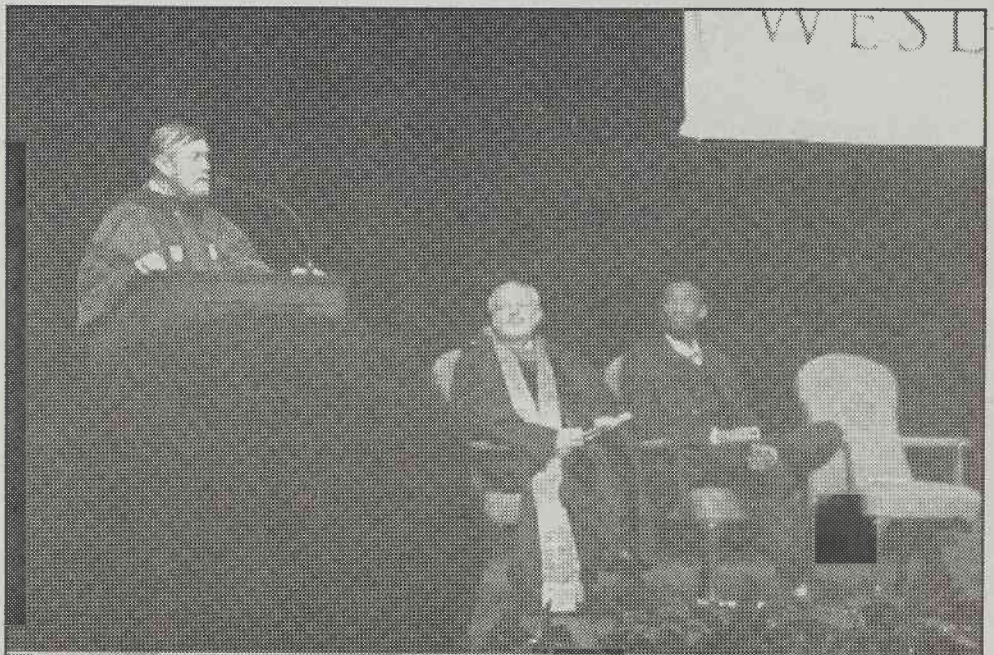
By Ron Fitzwater

Ceremonies, celebrating the forty-seventh anniversary of the founding of North Carolina Wesleyan College, were held on October 23rd 2003, in the Dunn Center for Performing Arts. Festivities opened at 9:30 am with the Scholarship Recognition Ceremony held in the Mims Gallery, which gave students and donors an opportunity to meet one another and exchange pleasantries. The recognition ceremony was opened by Dr. Philip Ellmore, Vice President of Development. College President,

Dr. Ian Newbold then announced the scholarship recipients and introduced the donors present. Following the Scholarship Recognition Ceremony, the Founders Day Convocation was held in Minges Auditorium.

Following the invocation by Rev. George Jones, Pastor of Englewood United Methodist Church, President Ian Newbold welcomed the assembled crowd and introduced two of the original founders, Mr. William Harrison and Rev. Thomas Collins, Wesleyan's first President, who were in attendance. Speaking on the mornings Scholarship Recognition Ceremony, President Newbold said that, "It was fitting that we recognized the scholarship

See "Founder's Day" p.8

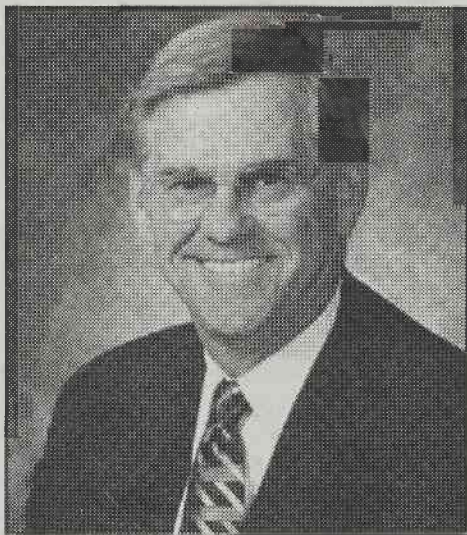


Dr. Allen Johnson Delivers The 2003 Founders Day Convocation Address

Wesleyan Football Pres. Newbold Answers our Questions

Over the past few weeks, the Decree has been receiving some e-mail and face to face requests to look into concerns regarding the introduction of football to the Wesleyan athletic program. Previously, an article ran that had a supportive slant to it regarding the football program, (Oh Happy Day!!!, Decree Vol19 No. 1), In this issue, we offer the other side of the topic, submitted by Jason Rice.

Given the fact that there seem to be differing opinions and countless rumors running around campus, we requested interviews with President Ian Newbold



and Athletic Director John Thompson to try and confirm or put to rest some of those rumors. They were both quick to accept our request and on Tuesday 18 November, I sat down, separately, with them to try and clear up some of the confusion. This issue we are happy to run the interview with President Newbold. Please look for Coach Thompson's interview in the next issue of the Decree.

Q&A with President Newbold;

RF - *There seem to be many rumors around campus about whose idea it was to bring football to Wesleyan; some people say that you came here with it part of your agenda, some are saying that the Board of Trustees gave you a little arm twisting to get you to come on board with the idea.*

See "Football" page 7

A Football Team, Indeed Another point of view

By Jason Rice

When it was official that N.C. Wesleyan was indeed going to have a football program beginning in the fall of 2004, I was happy.

I was glad to learn that we have enough money in our budget to fund another athletic team. I'm glad to know that our classrooms are as technologically sound that we cannot improve any further. I'm glad that I like sitting in the old wooden desks in Pearsall that squeak so loudly some times that it is difficult to hear the professor. I'm glad that the window air conditioner units function just fine. I'm glad the money set aside for athletics isn't going to be spent on academic programs; who came here to learn anyway? Wesleyan is constantly making the list of the best small colleges in The Princeton Review, Book of Colleges. I'm glad that our academic curriculum is so rigorous and diverse that I can take a course in anything that I may desire. I'm glad we are going to have an additional amount of football players attending, because historically football players have always been known to elevate test scores. I'm glad that we aren't going to spend money on any renovations for the residence halls; it's not that bad to live here. The library

has always had every book I have ever wanted to consult, so there is no need for improvement there.

With that being said, you can bet that I will be cheering the loudest when the football team hits the field for the first time in 2004. Thank You Wesleyan.

Sarcasm is a beautiful thing.

It is clear with the addition of the football team that Wesleyan is committed to the quantity of students and not the quality. I understand economics; more students equal more money, but we do not need to focus on bringing more students here by creating more programs when the programs that already exist are only functioning on a mediocre level. The main focus of any college should be academics.

But, if mediocre is the level that we are comfortable with, then we are well on our way.

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