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**NC Wesleyan Theater Department
Hits Snag, but Keeps Aiming High**



By
Ron Fitzwater

For fans and supporters of the NC Wesleyan theater program, the beginning of this year's season took an unusual turn when the announced puppet show and workshop were abruptly canceled. The cancellation resulted in several calls to the Decree office and prompted a conversation with Professor David Blakely, director of the NCWC theater program.

Sitting in his office in the Dunn Center, Blakely spoke on the state of the theater program, specifically budgeting issues, and the events surrounding the cancellation of the program's first offering. "There was a unique situation concerning the cancellation," Blakely stated. "For one thing, the puppeteer did not send the contract until late; however, he was under the impression that there was no problem with the scheduling." The contract, which the puppeteer sent to the school, did not go through the system until the Tuesday before the show was scheduled. Blakely stated he attempted to move the paperwork along, but was unsuccessful. "On Thursday," said Blakely, "I wound

up having to call the puppeteer and say we had to cancel." This was a situation the puppeteer did not understand, as the show had been in the works for over a month, with only the final date to be determined. The problem was, Blakely emphasized, "unique" for the program.

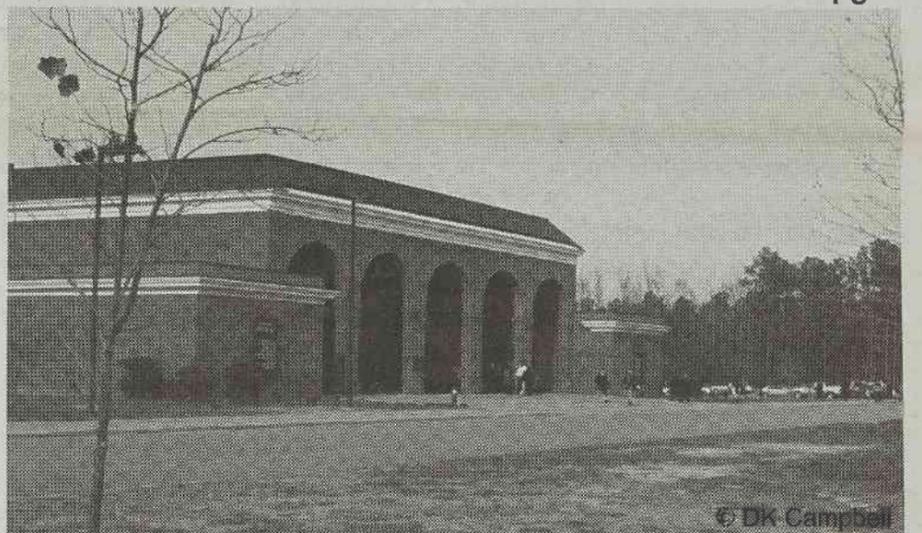
When asked if the cancellation was an indication of future problems expected for the theater program Blakely said, "One of the things that this caused was a discovery that there is no sort of policy that governs what the monies in our production budget are to be spent for. No guidelines at all, so, as the head of the theater program I try to

use the budget in creative ways."

Blakely further explained that there are certain things that must be done with the theater funds such as buying lumber, costumes, and specialty make-up, as well as updating the lighting and sound systems to keep abreast of technological advances that become "state of the theater" so that students will know how to operate them.

Seeing all the productions at the theater as being somehow related to the educational and cultural mission of the college, Blakely stated that the program tries to offer

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The Dunn Center for the Performing Arts

**Student Leaders Partner with Community Leaders,
Make Day for Wesleyan a Success**



By
Modestine Welch

On September 14, the 23rd Annual Day for Wesleyan campaign, one of North Carolina Wesleyan College's major projects that is executed every year as a means to raise money for the future of Wesleyan College and its students, began a new tradition with the addition of student leaders serving as volunteers. This addition undoubtedly made the day a success. Students and community leaders collected \$463,759, up from last year's total of \$449,684.

The day began with breakfast in the Dunn Center for the Performing

Arts. During breakfast the audience listened to speeches from Mayor Fred Turnage; President Newbould; the co-chairs for a Day for Wesleyan, staff chairperson Martha Proctor and faculty chairperson Dr. Rodney Austin, Student Government President John Tejada and the Director of Alumni Support Tom Maze. Each speech was given with the intention of sparking each person's excitement and love for Wesleyan.

Students were assigned to community leaders and plans were given to successfully complete the goals for the day. Every community leader was given a folder that included what businesses they were responsible for talking to that

day. The goal was to either receive a monetary donation or a financial pledge to the college. Next, each group left the Dunn Center with the anticipation of showing previous and new Wesleyan supporters in the Rocky Mount community how their financial support makes a difference.

Atasha Jackson, who currently serves as the 2004-2005 Student Government Association secretary, participated as a student leader for A Day for Wesleyan and had this to say, "Working as a student volunteer gave me the opportunity to meet people and find out about companies that I did not know existed in Rocky Mount, North

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