

NEWS & OPINION

Upperclassmen Offer Advice For First-Year NCWC Students

By Jessica Jones and Shannon Williams
Decree Staff Writers

So you're leaving home to end your high school career and begin that awkward yet enlightening period of your life between codependency (on your family) and adulthood: COLLEGE! As you prepare to leave, you get all types of advice from everyone: parents, teachers, coaches. But as you're entering freshman year, who better to get advice from than the pros—that is, upperclassmen who were in your shoes not too long ago.

The first year of college is usually the most memorable year, even if some of the memories aren't so pleasant. North Carolina Wesleyan College upperclassmen were asked what piece of advice they would give a freshman on how to survive freshman year. The advice ranged from "study hard" to "take time to party."

Many students stressed the importance of early academic success.

Cornelius Grimsley, a junior, advised freshmen to "always keep your head in the books, because freshman year can be the year that makes or breaks your career."

Sophomore Trevor Seibert urged freshmen to "stay away from the parties and in the books, because you can lose your scholarships."

Sophomore Chad Wiggins said the key to a successful freshman year is excellent time management. Lots of college students try to balance class, work, and extracurricular activities. "Buying a planner will be one of the wisest investments you'll make," he said. "It's easy to say you'll remember to do something, but it's even easier to just write it down. Keep an accurate account of what you have to do as well as what you've already accomplished to keep your daily activities organized. It helps reduce stress."

If you feel yourself getting restless, junior Jermaine Artis recommends that you "focus all your energy towards your academics." Artis added that if you find that your schedule is up to date, and you have absolutely nothing else to do, it doesn't hurt to get one step ahead. You can always read ahead in your book. You can never have too much knowledge.

Tanya Bullock, a senior, agrees that focus is essential. "In the words of hip-hop mogul Jay-Z, '(Be) focused, man,'" Bullock said. "So you can graduate in four years and become something in life. Don't be another unemployed statistic."

Showing interest is crucial for academic success, according to senior Shawn Harvey, who has been instructed by a wide variety of professors over the years. "Get to know your professors, and don't be afraid to ask questions," he recommended. "The professor will help you if you show that you're trying to help yourself."

Added sophomore Tyler Hux, "Do your homework ahead of time, and talk in class, because professors will get to know you and will help you out." Justin Jackson, a sophomore, stressed

the importance of attending class on a regular basis: "Go to class, because you can't pass if you don't go to class." And when you're in class, Jackson said, "Speak up!"



Shanisha Barnes and other upperclassmen have some advice for this year's freshmen.

Other upperclassmen offered advice for life outside the classroom. Junior Shanisha Barnes recognizes the importance of joining organizations. "Getting involved around campus is a great way

to get to know your peers, professors, and the campus in general," she said. "This experience will look good to those reviewing your transcript and resume once you graduate and apply for a job or graduate school."

While it's important to make sure you're on top of your academics and involvement in organizations, junior Kevin Murphy pointed out that stress relief is important as well. "It doesn't hurt to go to a party or a club," he said. "Make sure that you don't work yourself to death. If you ever get to the point where you feel you need a break, go to one of the nearby clubs, or throw your own little get-together in the dorm with a few of your friends. It's a great way to wind down after a long work week."

But Danielle Davenport, a senior, cautioned against too much partying. "Don't get caught drinking alcohol on campus if you are under the age," she warned, "because although Wesleyan is a private college, the law can still lay hands on you and the person that supplied you!"

There's no doubt that whatever happens this school year, it will be a memorable one. You may be unsure about how to handle certain situations throughout the year. If you need advice on something, feel free to ask one of your fellow upperclassmen. They can speak from experience.

'Day for Wesleyan' Total Sets New Record

North Carolina Wesleyan College raised a record \$503,652 during its 24th annual "Day for Wesleyan" campaign, held September 13.

During the day's events, 125 volunteers visited or contacted almost 1,000 area businesses or individuals to ask for donations and pledges. Many students accompanied volunteers on their calls

throughout the Rocky Mount area.

This year's event was called "A New Day for Wesleyan" because every gift will be matched — dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$1.2 million — with funds from a bequest by the late Frank E. Brown, a native of Edgecombe County.

— For a full report, see Graig Cherry's coverage in the next issue of the Decree.

Opinion: Hippie Lettuce

By Ron Fitzwater
Decree Editor-at-Large

The US Supreme Court recently ruled that the federal government has the right to overrule state laws that permit the use of medical marijuana even when it is prescribed by a doctor.

Now, most polls show that the majority of Americans are for medical use of hippie-lettuce (This includes yours truly). For example, a poll conducted by the AARP reported that 72 percent of people responding who are age 45 and older support the idea.

So why does the federal government want to keep Med-Weed use illegal for individuals who really need it? Personally, I think it's because they haven't found a way to legalize pot in a way that they can turn a profit.

Although there are exceptions to

every situation, it should be noted that none - NOT ONE state of the 10 that allow use - allows patients to grow more than they can use (4-6 plants, depending on the state).

These are not big-time interstate traffickers; they are sick people in pain.

Let's see how they spin it the first time some DEA assault team kicks in the door of an MS sufferer and drags him off to federal court.

Besides, it's an herb. It's natural. Whether you believe in a God who created everything or think life happened by chance, we are not dealing with a man-made creation. People die every year due to Christmas tree fires, but the feds haven't outlawed "Douglas Firs".

What a world!--RF

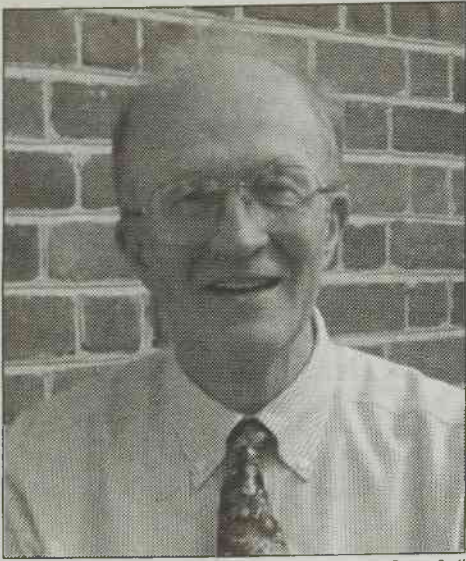


Photo by Decree Staff

Dr. James F. Traer is serving as interim Dean of the College for the 2005-2006 academic year, succeeding Dr. Dan Bozik, who has retired. Traer holds a law degree and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. In previous posts, he served as President of Westminster College, Missouri, and Interim President of Kendall College, Illinois. He was Dean at Lynchburg College for eight years.

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