

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

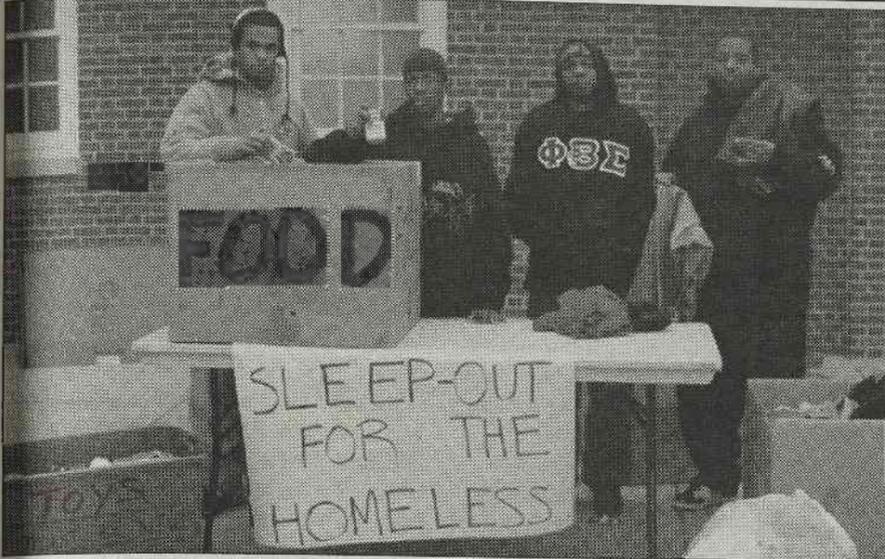


Photo by Decree Staff

NCWC Phi Beta Sigma brothers and other volunteers participated in the 2nd Annual Sleep-out for the Homeless event, held February 10-11 at the Hartness Center patio. Hoping to raise the public's awareness of homelessness, the participants endured temperatures that dipped into the 20s while sleeping in cardboard boxes. During the event, the fraternity collected donations for the Rocky Mount Homeless Shelter. Seen here (l-r): Michael Davis, William Crocker-Jones, Donterio Perkins and Elmore Bryant

NC Wesleyan Community 'Breaks' in All Directions

By Christine Werfelman
Decree Senior Staff Writer

During spring break week, NC Wesleyan students and faculty will scatter in many directions, from the Vermont ski slopes, to Miami's warm, glamorous South Beach.

Whether students and faculty return home, vacation with friends and family, or remain in Rocky Mount to work—at perhaps a slower pace—the week provides a nice break to relax and prepare for the last two months of school.

NCWC Resident Director Paul Seeley is offering a Spring Break road trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Georgia from March 3rd through March 7th. He has reserved two vans to shuttle the students.

"The drive takes six hours but the scenic route is half the fun!" Seeley said. "It's fun and educational, beats sitting at home bored or sitting around getting drunk."

On the trip, students will tour museums, state parks, as well as the Chattooga River, the location for the movie "Deliverance." The cost, \$110 per student, will cover transportation, lodging, entrance to activities and some meals. "As a Resident Director, one of my duties is to provide programs to the students that are of an educational nature," Seeley said. "Thinking of education in the broader experiential sense, I've concluded that NCWC students may benefit from a road trip."

A second alternative spring break has been organized by Chaplain Barry Drum. He is leading a work team from the NCWC community to help with repairs in the Gulf Coast area devastated last summer by Hurricane Katrina. He noted that he has obtained funding to offset travel expenses. "For students, the expense will be minimal," said Rev. Drum, who suggests that interested students, staff and faculty contact him for additional information at ext. 5192.

For many NCWC students, Florida is a popular choice. Rachel Perelli and Ashley Franklin are heading to Miami together this year. "I can't wait to lie on the beach and get a tan," Perelli said. Franklin added, "I can't wait to hit all the hot spots and go clubbing and forget about school for a week." Shaima Elsedoudi will fly to Miami and meet up with her friends.

Amber Huggins is headed to Florida but she'll vacation in The Keys. "I can't wait to soak in the sun," she said. "This will be my first week off from school and work in a long time, so I'm very excited to just take it easy."

NCWC students aren't the only ones off. Faculty and staff members will be enjoying the break as well. Dr. Robert Everton, assistant professor of marketing, will visit his family and grandchildren, Noah and Emma, in Jupiter, Florida. "I'm looking forward to seeing my family," Everton stated. While in Florida, Dr. Everton plans to take in action at the Florida Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals spring training camps and add to his collection of player autographs.

Native Floridian Sidney Parrish, an assistant professor of chemistry, will spend the first part of the break in Jacksonville, visiting with friends from the University of Florida graduate school. Then he intends to gather with hometown friends as well as his parents and sister who live in Orlando, home of Disney World. "We'll spend time at the beach and enjoy the Florida weather," Dr. Parrish said. "I'm looking forward to having a few days to relax and enjoy spring."

Faculty secretary Marie Edwards is planning to take a cruise in the Western Caribbean, visiting Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Montego Bay, among other sunny spots. She will make the trip with her sister-in-law, Sue Edwards, her frequent traveling companion since the deaths of their husbands, twin brothers.

"Sue and I look forward to cruising," Edwards said, "as we only have to unpack once, and we get to enjoy various shows, excellent meals, and activities on the ship without having to worry about parking and traffic. It's very relaxing."

While many want to "catch some rays" and get as close to the beaches as possible, some students prefer an entirely different climate. Rebecca Sherrod is taking a trip to the North Carolina mountains with her friends from home. Jeff Johnson is traveling to Vermont this year. "I never get the opportunity to ski and snowboard," he said, "so I'm looking forward to that this break."

Many student-athletes will remain at school while practicing and playing games. The NCWC baseball and softball teams have games during the break. The baseball team will enjoy a trip to Arizona the following week.

For some, there is no rest. Kelvin Clark, president of the Student Government Association, and Kristin Hurd, SGA secretary, are among the students who will remain in the area to work.

Step Show Cancellation Angers NCWC Students

By Decree Staff

Students have questioned the abrupt cancellation of a Step Show that NC Wesleyan would have hosted February 24 for college groups along the East Coast.

The show, organized by NCWC Greek organizations, was to draw groups from as far away as Florida A&M and Virginia Commonwealth, as well as local schools such as Wake Forest and North Carolina State.

"Wesleyan lost a lot of face and credibility with fraternities and sororities," said SGA President Kelvin Clark, who discussed the issue at the recent NCWC Board of Trustees meeting.

A step show, a choreographed performance by African-American Greek organizations, incorporates precise movement, rhythmic hand claps and chants to showcase each group's talent and uniqueness.

The NCWC event was to cost more than \$6,000, with primary funds from SGA and Greek Council. The organizers sought additional funds from the college. Other money would have come from registration fees and admissions.

Students said that the administration canceled the event because of the high cost and questions over possible safety problems. Organizers called the safety concerns unjustified. "We're not Bloods or Crips," said Lacey Maloney, an organizer and a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha. "We're organizations about community service and scholarship."

But the administration's version of events is different. Vice President Vann Newkirk said that the students canceled the event after the administration encouraged the organizers to scale back and lower the costs. Dr. Newkirk said that a smaller event with college groups from around the state would have been preferable.

Dr. Newkirk added the administration raised questions over the size and strength of the security detail that the organizers had planned to employ, noting that the step show would have attracted crowds from Rocky Mount and the surrounding area, in addition to students from NC Wesleyan and the competing schools.

Clark said a successful step show would have lifted the spirits around campus. He was asked if he thought the disagreement with the administration was due to the incidents in NCWC dormitories that resulted in the expulsion of seven students. "If anything," he said, "the Petteway incident should have been an incentive to do the program, not to cancel it."

(This article was based on the reporting of Jessica D. Jones, with assistance from Jessica Bowen)

Grill Closing Proposal Receives Mixed Reaction on Campus

By Shannon Williams
Decree Editor

Students and staff have voiced their opinion on a cost-cutting proposal concerning the relocation of the grill, and many oppose the idea. Dean of Students Peter Phaiiah presented the proposal to the student body at a recent meeting.

The grill, a popular eatery among North Carolina Wesleyan College's students, is located in the Hartness Student Center. It provides an alternative selection for those who choose not to eat in the cafeteria, or are unable to dine there due to class, work, or practices.

The administration has said that the grill is losing considerable money in its current location, due to energy costs and other overhead expenses. The new proposal calls for the college to move the grill to the Hardee's Building and house it within the cafeteria. The grill would keep its normal hours of operation and serve the identical menu it now offers in the Hartness Center location.

Although the initial proposal suggested that the college turn the former grill into a study area, equipped with computers, other ideas have emerged for the space. Under one plan, the college would expand the recreation area, adding pool tables as well as vending machines that allow use of a debit card.

Dean Phaiiah said he is interested in getting student feedback on the proposal before giving it the green light.

Freshman Damian Hopkins agreed that the proposal would conserve more energy, saving the college money, which is the ultimate goal of the relocation.

Senior Kristin Hurd agrees with the idea as well. "As long as the same stuff is available, like the food and televisions," she said.

Since the grill will be moved to the cafeteria, junior Jenna Gollub thinks the idea is okay, if a couple of changes occur. "I think the grill should offer breakfast foods too," she said.

But many students disagree with the proposal. Senior Andrea Williams said that if the Hartness Center puts computers in the grill location, it would require "as much energy. So it's a waste." She thinks the grill should improve the quality of the food. "More students would spend more money at the grill."

Senior Chidi Ihouma seconds Williams's suggestion that the college should focus on improving the food offerings. Instead of trying to conserve energy and save money by relocating the grill, he suggests, "The school should allow popular restaurants to operate on campus." He

said that such an arrangement would bring in more money.

Junior Kevin Murphy said that although the idea may conserve energy and save money, it may cause other problems. "I think it would cause problems, such as bookstore workers and café employees complaining about trash that students may leave in the café and the hallway leading to the area where the grill would be," he said. He added, "There will be no place to sit and lounge, like we have in the Hartness."

See "Grill" on page 2

Two More Students Punished Following Dormitory Fracas

By Shannon Williams
Decree Editor

The college has disciplined two female students as a result of the events that occurred over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

The students, freshmen and residents of Edgcombe Hall, were given community service, along with a number of other punishments, said Dean of Students Peter Phaiiah, who declined to provide details about the punishment. Phaiiah added that although there were other female students involved in the incident, "there was not enough evidence on the other girls to charge them."

Seven freshman males were expelled immediately following the January 15 incident. During the incident, the males released firecrackers into Edgcombe Hall three times. The women retaliated by entering Petteway Hall and damaging furniture and other community property, sources have reported.

Phaiiah noted that NCWC's community standards board, which consists of three faculty, two staff, and two students, reviewed the incidents and decided on the proper punishment for all parties involved.

Students and parents have complained that the differences in the punishments were a result of gender discrimination, and even racial discrimination. Phaiiah stated, "The men were expelled, because if you compare the violations, the acts the men committed were considered life-safety issues."

Update: USA South Conference Men's Basketball Semi-Finals

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