

# THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

## Wesleyan Takes Steps to Fight Crime, Improve Campus Life

By Jarad Brown  
Decree Editor

Most students walk around the campus of NCWC fully aware of things they would like to see improved or simply changed. Those same students also have the opinion that those ideas are just that, ideas.

Thanks to President James Gray, that opinion might be changing.

Gray sat down with the staff of The Decree and talked about changes he has made, is currently making, as well as ideas for the future of the Wesleyan campus.

One of the easiest ways to change students' opinions of their campus would be to give it a facelift and Gray has already started doing just that.

"We have to make the campus appeal to students," Gray said. "Residence life has needed to and continues to need to work to allow students to enjoy living on campus."

Changes President Gray has already performed include the termination of the director of residence life, and the shuffling of resident directors and resident assistants to different dorms. He reported that Dean of Students Randy Williams is directing residence life on an interim basis while the college conducts a major search for a new director to succeed Davon Davis.

"Our system in residence life wasn't working very well," the president said, "and we needed to make changes."

Recent upgrades have been made to the Hartness Center. It has received a new paint job, both the foosball and ping-pong tables were refurbished and upon the conclusion of spring break the grill will officially be moved to the kitchen area of the Hartness center.

"We knew we needed to make the student center more appealing to

students," President Gray said. "Every great college seems to have a great student building."

Work doesn't stop with material items on campus for President Gray. He also has plans to resuscitate Greek life at NCWC.

Talks are under way to bring multiple fraternities and sororities where Wesleyan students can have the opportunity to pledge. These will, however, come with GPA requirements, a recognition and de-recognition policy and a mandatory commitment to diversity.

"We want to foster, nurture and rebuild the Greek system here at Wesleyan," President Gray said. "While we want this to take place, we have to go carefully, slowly and have control moving forward."

While upgrading Wesleyan's campus is certainly one of the administration's priorities, protecting what is already available at NCWC has also been thrust to the top of the "to-do" list.

President Gray mentioned the "reluctant" introduction of security cameras in Petteway Hall, as well as new covers for fire alarms to help prevent false alarms, a serious problem around campus last semester. These covers would make it more difficult for students to pull the alarm as a prank and get away with it, the president explained.

"We're not cracking down on trivial matters," Gray said. "I'm confident the days of someone being able to pull false alarms is quickly coming to an end."

The integration of freshmen across the campus as opposed to placing them all in one living quarter was also mentioned. President Gray's hope is by spreading freshmen around campus, that upper-classmen will have a posi-

tive "big brother" effect on them.

While a focus has been placed on current improvements and protecting those improvements, crimes from the fall semester have been neither forgiven nor forgotten.

One student has already been apprehended and charged with a misdemeanor in connection with the campus bookstore theft that resulted in \$350 in cash as well as \$4,000 in books being stolen, Gray said. The thefts occurred as members of the football team were getting sized for their USA South championship rings.

"Trust me, that will never happen again," Gray said. "And trust we will find the others involved with the crime."

The thefts were one reason that

the bookstore has created a new store layout and instituted new policies.

Beyond the bookstore incident, eight other students have either been suspended or expelled from campus for various transgressions, President Gray said.

One of the eight students was expelled for a pre-existing criminal background that was "overlooked" during his original admission.

"We're taking a no-tolerance stance on crime," Gray said. "When the majority are bothered by a few, we're going to get rid of those few."

The administration is also working with the student government association to create a new, shorter and more visible honor code. "All great schools have a great honor code," Gray said.

Despite all of the changes President Gray has already implemented, he does have long-

term goals that are currently unrealized.

Gray hopes to increase traditional day program enrollment to 1,000 students and build a new dormitory as well as another classroom building to accommodate this increase. Another priority is construction of a sports complex that would include a football stadium.

"I want to make Wesleyan the best possible college it can be," Gray said, noting that, besides increasing enrollment, he would like to see improvement in the academic level of the student body. "Wesleyan is a place we should all be able to take pride in," he said.

## Freshmen To Be Integrated into Other Dorms

By Rodney Holley  
Decree Staff Writer

Student reaction was mixed to a proposal to integrate freshmen into more of the NCWC residence halls.

Dean of Students Randy Williams stated that the proposal was made in response to the mischief and theft that occurred last semester. Much of it has occurred in Petteway, a male-only dorm that houses mostly freshmen.

Many may ask why freshmen were grouped together in the first place? According to Williams, having freshmen room together is a "long-standing tradition" and a chance to "create camaraderie amongst the class."

Williams has heard student reaction to the proposal and stated that "any type of change is going to have an effect on people."

Williams added that "students will still be able to select their housing." He said that under one option being considered, the residence halls would be divided so that one end is reserved for freshmen and the other end for upperclassmen. Williams said another option would be a floor plan that alternates freshmen and upperclassmen, room by room.

Anthony Tyus, a senior, reacted to the proposal by saying "it'll be better because freshmen won't be concentrated together." He said they would face less influence and pressure from their freshman peers. Tyus went on to say that it should cut down on the trouble and "place a limit on the noise and playing around."

Devon Whitaker, a junior, is not opposed to the integration and stated that "everybody can be around each other and build a better bond."

But not all students are receptive to integration. James Debro said that freshmen bring too much drama to the dormitories and that he was "not too crazy about having freshmen in my dorm."

Freshmen Terrence Lancaster and Nash Carter chose Nash Hall over Petteway because they felt that freshmen were too immature. Lancaster said "all that ruckus (in Petteway) is too much for Nash." Carter agreed and said that "I think it's best (for the majority of freshmen males) to stay in Petteway for at least their first year."

President James Gray said that, as the college formulates its plan, it is considering input from upperclassmen. "I'm well aware that many upperclassmen do not want freshmen in their dorms," he said.

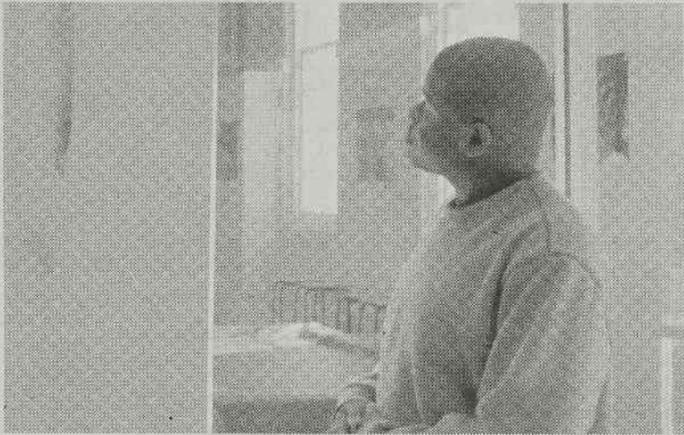
Responding to opponents of freshmen integration, Dean Williams pointed out that "in a sense we're already integrated." He noted that some upperclassmen already live in Edgecombe and Petteway.

President Gray, noting that there were more than 10 instances of false fire alarms last semester, said that this had a "real life impact." Fire alarms were pulled during exams last semester and students lost sleep and couldn't study.

The president said that there were too many instances of theft in the dormitories. He added that the administration has taken action to prevent further instances. The college had already expelled one student in the wake of the thefts, he said.

While Gray hopes that the integration will deter false fire alarms and theft, he believes that students will have to take responsibility to protect the NCWC community. Gray said that the college had provided an anonymous tip line: [www.ncwc.edu/tips](http://www.ncwc.edu/tips).

Dean Williams said that the college has yet to determine when it will implement the integration plan.



The college is investigating the torching of a banner in the Hartness Center hallway last month. Here, a student looks at the burn marks left after the removal of the banner, made and hung by Student Activities Director Adia Daniels the Sunday before classes began. The two-by-three-foot banner said: "Hartness Grand Reopening." Photo by L. Whitley

## NC Wesleyan: Building Brighter Entertainment

By Bristy Parker  
Decree Staff Writer

The Hartness Center is "too far," "there's not enough games," "there should be food served" and "there should be more room" are some of the complaints that have been floating around associated to the under-use of the college's recreational facility.

The administration has heard student opinions and has taken steps increase usage, including the return of the grille to the Hartness Center, to entice students to use this facility more. Already the college had purchased a Wii system, replaced the ping pong table, and added

very popular among the students.

Since the Wii has been added, Daniels noticed that there have been more students in the Hartness. She's eager to tabulate the number of visitors in February, the first full month of the new semester. "But from what I've noticed, a lot more people are coming," she said.

Other additions that have brought in more students are the air hockey game and an additional TV area as well.

Freshman Erin Augspurger is pleased with the changes but thinks the college can do even more. She feels that there is nothing to do in the Hartness Center

do. Someone can play air hockey while someone plays ping pong, while someone plays Wii, he said.

Avid pool player Tory Turner says he goes to the Hartness Center to play every chance he gets. He also likes the improvements and says he will come more often.

SGA Vice President Juliana Richardson and Marcus Ribbenstedt agree that they like the changes in the game room. Ribbenstedt said, "It's better than before. I go to the Hartness Center a lot more now because of ping pong and pool."

Richardson said that the grille should be back at the Hartness after spring break. Now that the grill is coming back, Daniels feels that this will also bring in more students.

The menu has still not been decided, but she said they are pushing to have the grill stay open later, perhaps until 11:00 p.m. It may also benefit athletes when they are arriving to campus late from away competitions and they want

a satisfying meal without having to go off campus and spend additional money. Daniels believes that the card swiping method will still be used.

President James Gray mentioned that the grill will be a great way to hang out and a good way to make the student center attractive.

But a possible downside could be the money used to enhance the center. "I'm not sure about how much it is going to cost to bring the grill back," Daniels said, adding that new games and other improvements cost \$2,200. It was \$600 to refurbish the pool tables.

"I would like to see the grill here because it benefits me rather than going off campus after hours for food," Payne said. "It will help me save time and money."

Turner thinks the grill will be interesting to see, and it will definitely bring in a lot more students.

## Chinese Students Delayed until Fall

By John Kostet  
Decree Staff Writer

The new International Student Services and Admission Center (ISSAC) is preparing for an increase of foreign students next fall as NC Wesleyan College takes part in a Chinese exchange program.

"We have created a unique, diverse niche here at Wesleyan, not only racially but ethnically," Vice President of Enrollment Gary Sherman said.

There are 25 countries represented by 70 students right now and China would become the 26th country on the Wesleyan world map. "We have a lack of Asian students here and I'm glad we can fill that gap this fall," Sherman said.

In 1998 a group of Chinese-American professors, scientists and engineers created an institute called InfoTech & Telecom Engineering Institute (ITTECOM). It was located in the so called "Dulles Technology Corridor" of Maryland and Virginia. Together with the International Consortium for University Exchanges

(ICUE), it formed a team to recruit qualified students with strong language skills from China to study at American universities.

In the beginning most of the Chinese students attended the University of Maryland. But after a few years, they expanded their college experience to smaller U.S. schools such as High Point University, and Marymount University in Virginia, and McMurry University in Texas. Lastly they contracted with NC Wesleyan.

The Chinese students - as many as 20 - were supposed to attend Wesleyan this semester, but due to both administrative issues and the celebration of the Chinese New Year, their arrival was postponed until next fall. "Apparently it means bad luck in China to leave loved ones before celebrating the New Year," Sherman explained.

The admissions office created ISSAC prior to the school start in August to provide extra attention and administration to international students.

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Students enjoy new game equipment in Hartness Center.

Photo by C. Thomas

new board games, among other changes, in the game room.

Adia Daniels, director of student activities, described how some of the changes and improvements in the Hartness Center came about. She said that she and Dean of Students Randy Williams saw that the building was underutilized and, to start solving the problem, they did formal and informal polling about what the students wanted. "There wasn't a lot to do," Daniels said. "There was a T.V. and two pool tables. It is also a building that is out of the way and there was no 'draw' to bring students in here."

Daniels believes more activities should be an incentive to get students to the Hartness in their free time. The Nintendo Wii was recently added, which is

but to play pool and watch TV. "Usually when I go in there," she said, "it's always a big group of guys at the pool table, which can be kind of discouraging. There should be a wider variety of activities for both genders." She suggested that the Hartness Center host weekly game nights.

But freshman Tyler Payne, a frequent Hartness Center visitor, thinks it is a pretty "chill" place. Payne feels that it provides a good distraction from school work. "Now that they have added more activities, I will definitely be here even more than I was," said Payne. He also expressed that the center was not used a lot because no one heard about it, and now that there are more activities there will not be any crowding at the pool tables because it's the only fun thing to