

# Because you asked...

PHOTO: DEREK SPEIGHT



WCC President Dr. Edward H. Wilson, Jr, center, thanks the keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Freddie Barnes, right, and David Rogers of the Community Relations Committee.

By JOHN LAPOINT

An interview with the president of WCC is a standard feature of the Voice.

THE TYPICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT IS A WHITE FEMALE, 29 YEARS OLD WITH 2.5 CHILDREN. THESE STUDENTS HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT CHILD CARE. WHEN WILL THE CHILD CARE FACILITY BE FINISHED?

DR. WILSON: There are no completion dates on that. We are doing a study now to determine the feasibility of whether we put a child care facility on the Master Plan. It was on the original Master Plan, but we haven't decided to put it on the current Master Plan. It's all several years down the way.

WILL SWITCHING TO SEMESTERS PUT US IN LINE WITH THE DAYS PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE OFF?

DR. WILSON: We tried as much as we could to balance those out, but we won't hit it 100%. We tried to be sensitive to it.

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST FEMALE STUDENTS DO IN THAT CASE? SHOULD THEY CUT?

DR. WILSON: I don't think they should cut. I think they should find someone to care for the child.

HAS THERE BEEN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS ON WHEN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSE SO WCC KNOWS WHEN THEY'RE CLOSED?

DR. WILSON: We know when they're going to close. We take that into consideration when we make our decision. They have a lot more days they can make up than we do. If we think people can get here safely, we'll have school. If we don't, we'll close. We make that decision on a day to day basis.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE WCC FOUNDATION?

DR. WILSON: Unquestionably, I think it's providing scholarships to students.

The Foundation was able to provide about \$90,000 in student scholarships at WCC.

There are other secondary purposes, but that's the primary purpose.

The Foundation is designed to provide that extra money to make a difference.

WILL THERE BE ANY NEW PROGRAMS ADDED TO THE CURRICULUM?

DR. WILSON: The only new one that is set now is a program in conjunction with Pitt Community College in Health Care Management. It's a major that will be added to our program.

IS THERE AGREEMENT AMONG FACULTY AND STAFF ABOUT SWITCHING TO THE SEMESTER SYSTEM?

DR. WILSON: Wayne was one of the colleges that voted in favor of switching. I haven't heard anyone raise any significant doubts about it.

DO YOU SEE ANY DISADVANTAGES TO SWITCHING?

DR. WILSON: Well, there is one obvious disadvantage. There is one less entry point for students to come into the system. Any time you cut down access is always a concern to me. It cuts down access since now you can only come in in fall, spring and summer, when before you could come in summer, spring, winter and fall. But I think that's overshadowed by the improvement in transfer.

ARE THERE ANY NEW CLUBS BEING ADDED TO THE 12 EXISTING ONES?

DR. WILSON: I know we added one club this year (). I'm proud of the number of clubs we have. We're beginning to expand our intramural program, which we're really pleased with. And as we're able to get more student interest, we'll expand it more and more.

STUDENTS WHO ARE SMOKERS FEEL DISCRIMINATED AGAINST SINCE THEY ARE PAYING STUDENTS, YET THEY HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE IN COLD WEATHER TO SMOKE. DO YOU HAVE A RESPONSE TO THIS ISSUE? COULD THE STUDENT UNION BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE A VENTILATED, HEATED SMOKING AREA FOR SMOKERS?

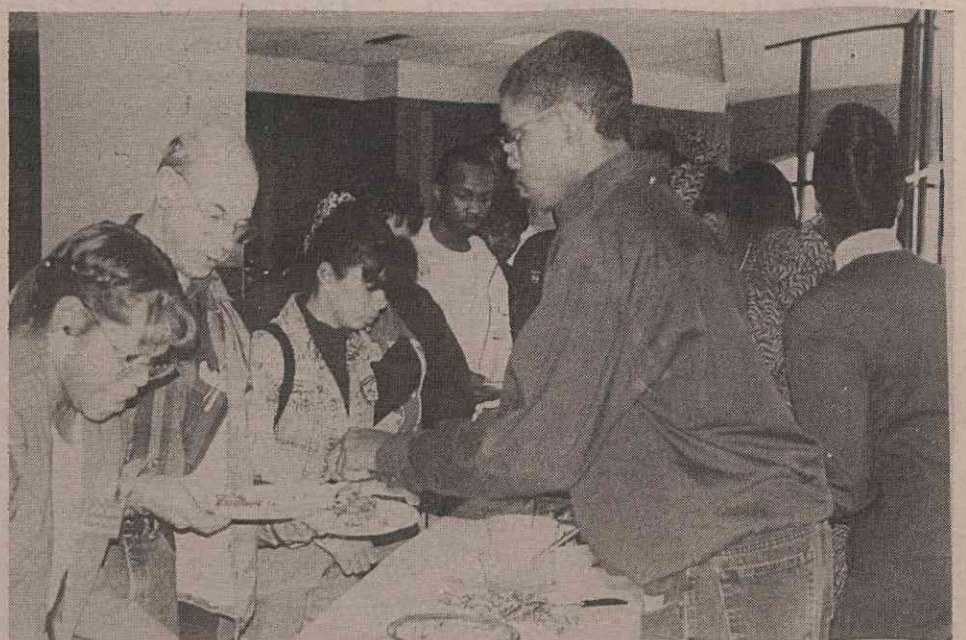
DR. WILSON: We already looked at that. We just can't find a place to do it. It is very expensive to get a space with all the ventilation necessary. I'm sorry they have to go outside. I know it's cold, but it doesn't get cold that long around here. It's just unfortunate.

I just believe the dangers of secondary smoke outweigh [the inconvenience.] That's the reason I made the decision.

DOES THE COLLEGE PLAN TO DO ANY WORKSHOPS ON DEALING WITH THE SMOKING ADDICTION?

DR. WILSON: When we passed the [smoking] policy, we told anyone who was interested that we would make arrangements for any kind of smoking classes, but we didn't have any response from students, faculty or staff.

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John Moses, SGA vice president and MCAE member, serves traditional soul food at the reception in the Student Lounge following Dr. Barnes' address. PHOTOS: VOICE STAFF