

Editorials

The Undertow

Why did the students have an unauthorized party? Did they not know what constituted an unauthorized party? Were they concerned that if the party were authorized it would be chaperoned and drinking would not be allowed? Were they rebelling against general authority? It may have been part of all three.

In the first place some did not know that an unauthorized party was against the school regulations. Others who knew did not realize the seriousness of the incident. The group went following a rebellious minority who had previously seemed to be standing for the good of the community. The "many" went along, but the "group" was wrong.

Secondly, every student knew full well that a drinking party would not be approved. But being accepted by the crowd probably seemed more important at the moment than rules.

In the third place it is only natural for students to test the authority of the student government and the administration. They thought that if they could get away with it one time, they could get away with it another. The students were disciplined—but to what avail? Unauthorized parties still seem to be going on, interrupted only by a party-raid. In both cases there are still a number of seemingly innocent students: those who didn't think or those who were persuaded by the group and many who did not participate at all.

The problem today all stems from the time when these hypocritical students began to lead others astray without regard for the good of the community.

What has happened to our "College Community?" Let us take a backward glance.

During orientation week the Wesleyan Spirit was defined as that underlying assumption that all students are basically honest and want to do what is right. It was realized that some small minority might lessen the efficiency of the community by doing wrong. The Wesleyan Spirit is that the majority, those who want to do right, will by means of personal contract and example show the minority that they do not fit into the community. Since everyone wants to be a part of the community, everyone will seek to do that which makes them acceptable—and for two weeks this worked.

What happened after orientation week? The hypocrisy became evident in a few. The pretense under which some students had been living gradually dissolved and their true feelings became evident by their actions. As Emerson says, "What you are stands over you the while, and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary." During orientation week the Wesleyan Spirit seemed high and everyone appeared genuinely concerned with the good of the community. The students thought in terms of what was good for the community and acted accordingly. Later, for unexplained reasons, the community spirit weakened and each student became more concerned for "self" rather than for the "community."

We cannot build a college, student government, or any other organization with students who "just don't think." We cannot follow the crowd and justify our actions on the basis of our good intentions; We cannot overlook the serious nature of the act itself. When a college does not spell out numerous rules and regulations but prefers the law of love to the legalism of law, it does not leave room for people who "don't think." There is no place in this society for them; for this society is designed for those who "do think"—who prefer the law of love to the legalism of law. Let's not let our community be governed by a system designed for those people who "just don't think." Keep the Wesleyan Spirit: make it a community spirit!



NOW WHAT WILL WE DO IN OUR SPARE TIME?

Orchids For Secretaries

Secretaries lead a boring life of typing and answering the telephone?

Maybe so, but not at Wesleyan. A minute in any of the administration offices will prove that our secretaries are always busy. Aside from keeping the newspaper reporters informed on hot tips, taking roll for some of the professors, typing themes, arranging roses, and serving coffee at official meetings, they never fail to take the time to

help any student in need!

They are always cordial and seem to know the majority of the students by name.

These ladies: Mrs. Whitley, secretary to President Collins and Dr. Hailey; Mrs. Fisher, secretary to Dean Moore; Mrs. Lee, secretary to Mr. Sherron; Mrs. Barnes, faculty secretary; and Mrs. Bander-slice, Mrs. Mann, and Mrs. Dew, business office; contribute a large part to the helpful, friendly atmosphere here at Wesleyan.

Just A Reminder . . .

Little enough has been said about the continual abuses by students to our college plant. First it was the dancing room, then the student lounge, and now the ping-pong room, not to speak of the evidence of mistreatment in the dormitories.

This abuse of school property is not a life or death issue, but it is certainly one that should be noticed and corrected by the students.

Maybe we don't realize the issue. It's not only the cost involved, of cleaning up, replacing furniture, and recreational facilities. But it is a matter of student character. We are all adults, and whatever we do reflects our behavior.

As students of a new and growing school, one that is being closely watched by educators the country over, we must make the high standards and ideals that will be used as a pattern to future students.



VISITOR — Mrs. Eleanor Wilkinson, former faculty member, visited the campus during inauguration week.

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