

FACULTY FORUM

By Rex Tucker

Experiencing The Other Side: An Incident

Last spring a number of the faculty at Wesleyan were invited, as a gesture of Christian friendship from Miss Williams, a maid working at the college, to attend services of worship at the Negro Baptist Church in Whitakers, a half hour's drive from our campus. After several other faculty members had attended, I went one Sunday afternoon to worship with Miss Williams and her congregation. As in many other Negro churches, the ushers were women, Miss Williams among them. Upon arrival, I was ushered to a front pew, where my friend from college greeted me, and where I sat during the opening minutes of worship.

Since the minister had yet to arrive from conducting services at another church, one of the church elders began worship with appointed readings from the Bible for the day. These were interspersed with songs and hymns began spontaneously from the congregation, led by a few women who took seats at the front of the church in

chairs set just below the pulpit. I suppose an observer might characterize this time as a kind of "warm-up" period before the preacher came; yet such a term, too detached and callous, does not indicate the quiet, reverent fervor accompanying the informality of those moments as the congregation joined in hymns familiar to them.

When the preacher arrived, I was introduced to him, and was invited, being a fellow clergyman, to join him in the pulpit. (Miss Williams had done her homework, you see.) As worship progressed, the minister asked me if I would offer the pastoral prayer, a request I was not altogether surprised to hear. Yet I was made a bit uncomfortable by the informal abruptness of the request. My spoken prayers were echoed and reassured by the rhythmic naturalness and forcefulness of the Amens that punctuated my words. Soon I found myself entering that rhythm to feel a common and cumulative earnestness about my voiced

petitions and their vocal answers.

Later I was asked to say a few words to the congregation, which I did, before listening to the sermon itself. The preacher spoke his words with cumulative emotion, yet not without intellectual clarity and substance. I felt I was listening to one of the better sermons I have heard since coming to Rocky Mount two years ago.

Immediately preceding the sermon, the choir had sung the morning anthem, with an artistry which often hides beneath seeming artlessness. The anthem was begun by a young girl first singing its lovely melodic line with the purity and directness which belong especially to youth. She was met on the second verse by the whole choir singing a deep and rhythmic accompaniment beneath her clear voice which, in antiphonal contrast, brought power to the purity of her singing.

There are other elements of the service I could profitably comment (Continued on Page 3)

Perspective

By: JEFF SHELTON

This column, unlike its predecessors in past years of the Decree, will attempt to take an independent, uninhibited approach to editorial comment. In the main, its topics will involve items of national and international importance, although the campus may draw comment on occasion. It is hoped that controversy will result, even though the phenomenon is rare at Wesleyan.

After the Chicago convention and its accompanying chaos, the politicians have laid even greater emphasis on Law and Order in America. It's as much of a vote-getter as the time-tested tenets of Americanism, with just as much universal appeal. But did Law and Order really triumph at Chicago with the suppression of a bunch of "hippies and draft-card burners", or was it a victory for something less virtuous?

Two candidates for the Democratic nomination witnessed the activity in the streets and were disgusted by what they saw; Senator McCarthy's sympathy for the demonstrators even led him to set up an aid station for the casualties. It was obviously a tactical error on Boss Darcy's part in send-

ing such a large group of national guard and police to quell a disturbance of the guests in the Hilton lobby. But, more importantly, what did these trained protagonists of Law and Order do when they arrived? They proceeded indiscriminately to release their aggressions on anyone with a uniform (foreign and domestic), even a young girl on an errand for Senator McGovern. It is heartening news to learn more recently of a poll placing Wallace as number one with the nation's cops. Also the action of a group of off-duty New York men-in-blue (Wallace supporters) in attacking some Black Panthers without provocation is equally encouraging.

Certainly there were antagonists in the crowd at the Chicago Hilton, but should we not expect more restraint in our supposedly competent lawmen and soldiers than that displayed by a few over-zealous militants in the crowd? We in America must adequately define what we mean by Law and Order. Hitler's brand of enforcement brought peace in the streets, but it also had an effect on the freedom of speech in Germany...

Fraternity

(Continued from Page 1)

on Parents' Weekend for all visiting parents. During homecoming, the Fraternity will co-sponsor a dance with Alpha Delta Chi. Along with the open and closed fraternity parties, Nu Gamma Phi will sponsor another dance and a beach party in the spring.

Upperclassmen Rush Period will be staged during the first or second week of October, while the Freshman Rush Period begins in the early Spring. One semester's attendance as a regular male student and the maintaining of a 2.0 average are the only requirements for membership.

Since its formation, certain guidelines have been used by the Fraternity in the planning of its endeavors. They are stated in the constitution of the Fraternity as follows: "The purpose of Nu Gamma Phi is to promote fellowship and mutual trust among its members, to uphold the tradition and the ideals of N. C. Wesleyan College, to encourage excellence in scholarship, and to inculcate in its members the highest ideals of Christian manhood and good citizenship." There is no doubt that the past activity of the Fraternity has reflected the meaningfulness of these words to both the leaders and the members of Nu Gamma Phi Fraternity.

Editorial

Fraternities

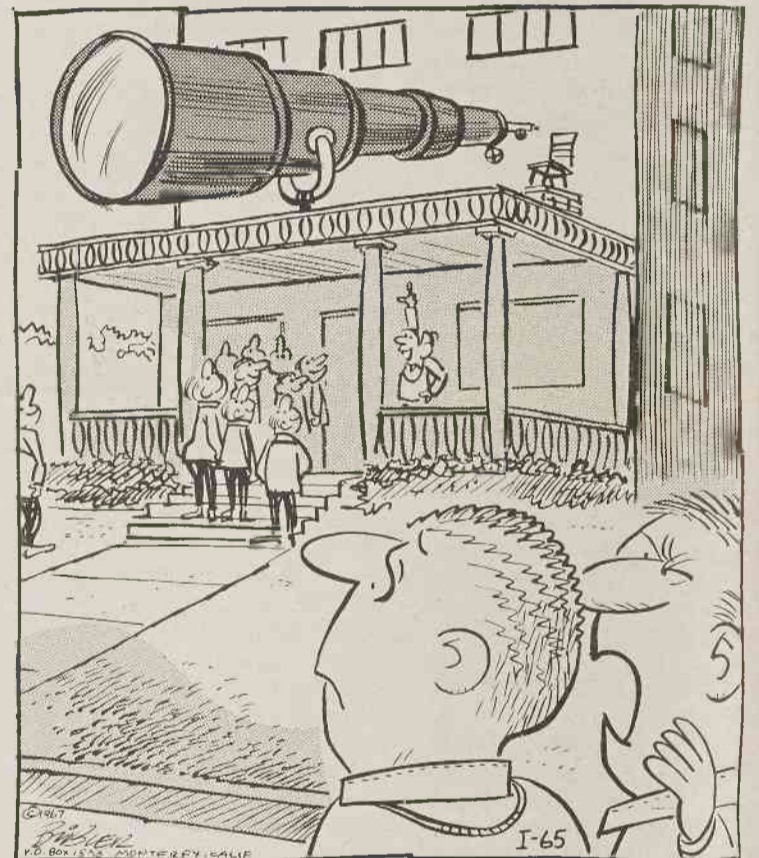
Whatever the situation on other campuses, the fraternity system at Wesleyan has been of great service both to the college organization and to the student body as a whole, in spite of the limited role allowed it.

Nu Gamma Phi and Alpha Delta Chi, although social fraternities, have yet participated, often jointly, in service projects both for the college and for the surrounding community. Both, for example, contribute heavily to the local blood drives. That Nu Gamma Phi last year won the Dean of Students' Award for service shows clearly the fraternities' service role on campus, and the good-natured, often noisy competition between the fraternities for prestige and recognition has done much for overall school spirit. Finally, Wesleyan's social life has been broadened by the open dances and parties given by the fraternities.

The potential for future contribution to Wesleyan's development by the fraternities is very great. For example, the problem of providing additional campus housing as Wesleyan grows could be solved by allowing the fraternities to "go national". Through national affiliations they could borrow cheaply to build fraternity houses, providing additional living space for students at no cost to the college.

One would hope that, as Wesleyan's fraternities grow and become even more a part of her traditions, they will be allowed to assume greater responsibilities in leadership and in service to the Wesleyan community.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"O.K., SO IT'S JUST A DUMMY — BUT I NOTICE THEY GET TH' PICK OF TH' BOYS IN TH' 'PLEDGE CLASS' EACH YEAR."

Campus Movie: DARLING (1965)
starring

Julie Christie (Academy Award)
and **Dirk Bogarde & Laurence Harvey.**

Directed by John Schlesinger.

The Decree

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