

S.L.S. COMMITTEE REWRITES PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

Wesleyan's faculty-student Student Life and Services Committee released recently a new wording of President Collins' "Proclamation Regarding Protests and Demonstrations."

The new wording of the Proclamation, which was originally made public last November and became immediately controversial, incorporates proposed specific means by which campus groups

may receive authorization for the speakers whom they may invite to campus: "We propose that a group of students who wish to invite an outside speaker to come to our campus clear permission for this invitation with the Dean of Students at least two weeks before the speaker is due to arrive. If the Dean of Students denies such permission, the sponsoring group of students may

appeal their case to the Student Life and Services Committee which may support or over-rule the Dean of Students."

Dr. Davis, a member of the Student Life and Services Committee, emphasized that Dean Wilde had not asked that such responsibility be lodged with him.

The new version of the Proclamation, which will be considered by President Collins, shifts its emphasis from rules to guidelines, while also restating the purpose of the Proclamation: "While acknowledging that any statement of principles and procedures connected with sensitive issues is never completely satisfactory to all sides, North Carolina Wesleyan feels that it should speak as forthrightly and honestly as possible on the problems which face all of us internationally, nationally, and locally. What is set out in the above statement are guidelines as well as rules. Each issue or circumstance which affects the academic community or the city will have to be judged according to the particular context of any student action. What we seek above all is not a hard-and-fast code of conduct, but a workable and judicious method of meeting our responsibilities to academic freedom and community improvement."

this smaller role, we play a larger one - - -unseen. Each of us operates in certain spheres in the community as student, faculty, administrator, or staff. Each invades and responds to the other spheres, our thoughts exemplifying the feeling that "they" don't understand "us." THE DECREE, assemblies, committee meetings, CAMPUS ITEMS, and bull sessions all contribute but still leave gaps in the communication between the organs of our Wesleyan body.

An idea for remedying this situation grew out of some public hearings held in Rocky Mount a year or so ago when the City was considering bids for a cable television service to be supplied to this area. At that time, there was criticism of the cable television proposal, so that a public hearing was held giving opportunity to quiz both proponents and opponents and to hear comments by the Mayor and the City Council members. Interested citizens could thus formulate an opinion based not only on newspaper articles and hearsay, but could also judge the validity of arguments presented at these meetings. The experience was an enlightening one. Could a Wesleyan Town Hall meeting, an open - - - forum render extinct - Communicatus hiatus?

Editorial

We were pleased to note that the results of interviews with people involved in all phases of campus life show a growing awareness of the dangers and inconsistencies inherent in honor systems and a growing opposition to honor codes or systems of any sort.

While some students' opposition to honor systems stems simply from the fact that, in their experience, honor systems do not work, many others join us in a philosophical as well as an administrative opposition to honor systems. Almost no one would even try philosophically to justify a social honor system; and the few who try to justify an academic honor system seem to be doing so simply because of its label, even though they have to admit, when questioned closely, that their support of an academic honor system is inconsistent.

As we have asserted all along, "Honor systems are dishonorable." The force of this slogan is that it points up the fact that the name of the system is misleading; in the past, some have felt that opposition to anything labeled "honor" would be dishonorable. Fortunately, however, more and more Wesleyan students - and faculty members - have come to view the issue objectively, realizing that the name, "honor system," is a misnomer.

Systems of law, in that they prescribe only what can and cannot be done without fear of punishment, are fair and acceptable, and are necessary to an orderly society; honor systems, in that they use an individual and varying trait to enforce mass modes of conduct, and in that they presume to damn a man rather than simply to punish him, are monstrous, hypocritical, and philosophically insupportable.

Honor System

(Continued from Pg. 1) dent Collins stated that in the present situation, the faculty member and the Dean of Students decided a student's punishment for an academic infraction. He interjected that with an honor code, the maximum limits of operation for the student judiciary would be clearly defined. He stressed that often the honor code becomes just that in name only. Unless the students really want it, they will be saying, in paraphrasing of an adage, "Yes, we have an honor system on our campus. The faculty have the honor; we have the system."

Dean Moore stated that he viewed the prospect of an honor code with mixed feelings, one reason being that there is no guarantee that a code would succeed. He favored a graduated system of discipline in the code. He feels that with an alertness of the problem of academic infractions, situation involving loss of integrity could be alleviated.

In the establishment of an honor system by students, Dean Wilde sees the transfer of more responsibility upon the students which will allow them to have still more voice in regulating student affairs. He also feels

that an honor system will motivate pride and unification among the students.

All three men agreed that a student oriented honor system would be favorably considered if the Senate adopted it.

Dr. Davis said in an interview that he was opposed to any system which would "work by tattling." He said further that in a situation in which one student informed on another his inclination would be to take no "punitive action," though if he himself caught a student cheating he would take some action.

Students in general agreed that honor systems or codes are dissatisfactory. Said Baxter Smith: "Honor codes are dishonorable. They pervert honor and use it to enforce simple laws."

Other students expressed alarm that an honor system, once it was approved for academics, might be extended to cover social activities. Said Julie Robinson, "Under an honor system like that, I'd be dishonorable if I didn't inform on my friends for drinking on campus. And I wouldn't do it."

Many students stated that they feared that an honor code would enforce on students the faculty's ideas of honor, though fa- (Continued on page 3)

FACULTY FORUM

By DR. A. W. SHARER

Communicatus (L). To Communicate - Hiatus (L) A Gap

In an era of tremendous communication accomplishment, witness the on-the-spot reporting of events from Tokyo, Viet Nam, Paris, and the moon, technology has solved massive problems to bring us these events on the day, even the hour, of their happening. In contrast, we are frequently less knowledgeable about what is going on - what people are doing and thinking in our own community. Not because of an absence of information flow, for this goes on around the clock - in the lounges - hallways - classes - on the long walk and in nocturnal bull sessions. But what of the quality and certainty of this information? How much is poor translation of our "common language"? How much is rumor, how much fact? Do the pieces fit together, and do we have them all, or do we lacking a few pieces settle for an "almost fit" and go on to form our concept of the situation?

Man is a communal animal. Among the rest of the animal world - a million species strong - are those forms solitary and independent caring not for the association of their kind, while others like man are bound together by structure or by spirit throughout their lives. These aggregates of family groups, tribes, or whole communities exhibit relationships which range from casual to severely strict. In the laboratory, we examine The Portugese Man-of-War, kin to jelly fish and coral. This seeming single being, we discover, consists of many individuals living in extreme interdependency, a type specialized for each life function - feeding, defending, or reproducing, but all combined into a single structure. Should one type cease performance, then all would die, and the colony would cease to be. In a like manner the colonial-

ant with workers, defenders, and reproducers depends for continued survival upon the services of each specialized type doing its own "thing." The colony here as in The Portugese Man-of-War with this built-in interdependency produces a sort of superorganism in which the individual is nothing alone and can only exist in the framework of the colony. Individual behavior patterns become important to a greater degree in such communal groupings, since failure of one may decrease the survival of many. Behavior and the social order from ants to apes is determined by inherited factors, modified to some extent by learning. With survival dependent on patterns of behavior, any member which does not fit the pattern is eliminated from the group thus preventing a dilution of the patterns best designed for survival.

The community of man might also be considered a superorganism with nations reduced to the status of organs in this super-beast, the individual to a single molecule among a galaxy of molecules. At the dawning of man's social development, one tribe might well have been unaware of the existence, much less the deeds and thoughts, of its neighbor tribe a forest away. Now the world's problems arrive daily on our doorsteps and invade our homes at the turn of a switch. The bomb, pollution, population explosion all demand our attention and actions. Can we turn aside and fail to respond, and yet how can the molecule affect the workings of this super-beast? Might it be necessary to serve first its specific function in the cell? It must be thus in man's society, to fill those smaller roles in this small piece of that large beast. Our piece for now is Wesleyan. And by

The Decree

Official Student Newspaper of North Carolina Wesleyan College

- EDITOR Ed Smith
- BUSINESS MANAGER Tom Mowbray
- ADS MANAGER John Hinnant
- CIRCULATION MANAGER Joel Martin
- OFFICE MANAGER Julie Robinson
- EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Marsha White
- PHOTOGRAPHER Baxter Smith
- PROJECTS DIVISION MANAGER John Dorsey

Business Address: Box 3146, Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, North Carolina
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WESLEYAN STUDENTS.

OPINIONS PUBLISHED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF WESLEYAN COLLEGE.