

WELCOME, Class of 1973!

*THE DECREE, proud to be a part
of Wesleyan College, invites you
to visit our offices in the Student
Union Building this weekend.*



VIEWPOINT

By E. Howe

As Wesleyan has modernized more and more during the past several years, it has become increasingly evident that the office of housemother really has no utility either for the college or for the students. Many of us remember when, only two years ago, a housemother had a mental breakdown and her dorm managed without notable incident to govern itself. We found that the Dorm Councils, when given a bit of responsibility, were actually able to keep the peace in the dorms and that ARC's were able to assume responsibilities for pass-keys and the other ceremonial frills of the housemotherhood.

The main argument for retaining housemothers as an institution at Wesleyan seems to be that they counsel troubled students, but my experience is that students are far more likely to seek counsel with other students over a beer rather than risk baring their souls to those three of four times their ages. Actually, the counsel-over-beer routine seems more effective and is certainly more enjoyable than a long series of tiresome and generally incriminating interviews with Authority.

Of course, the college may have to keep housemothers on simply because parents could never let their children loose

without a properly aged Custodian at hand. The children certainly have enough prejudices and fears not to have to be guarded against themselves, and, in any case, each year at freshman orientation college officials formally renounce any custodial duty to students.

Thus, one cannot find any supportable arguments for maintaining the institution of housemother at Wesleyan.

Letter of the Apocalypse

by E. Howe

(written while drunken upon the wines of Solomon's greatness)
Hey man,

The improper rhythms of unrefined genitals proceed profusely from the midnight of man's only soul ridden miseries in chaotic profundity. It vibrates upon the bile movements of dark eyes watching you and returns to its beginning in the privies of the earth. But the big arrow of eternity points horizontally! And Aunt Jemima can emancipate herself from the dark corners of ten thousand midnights into the full noontide shadows of blackness. Shall the nets be cast upon the waters of the world and produce only dead fish? Memories of the past gorge them-

'SAAB' cont'd.

goal in giving the February 7 dance is not so much financial gain at the moment but rather participation by many people in their efforts.

Soft drinks for the dance are being provided free of charge to S.A.A.B. by the local Bottling Company, while music is provided free by "The Essex" of Rocky Mount. WEED Radio is also contributing free promotional time for the dance.

selves into the placid remains of a fading decadent office building filled with beer cans rolling and clanking in the wind. The stench of a seven-day-old dead body still masturbating to keep some semblance of its former habits sends the Anglo-Saxon mind into a frenzy somewhat like that of a Celtic bagpipe player blowing against the wind and making little noises to the prophets of the deserts of the earth's mystic prehension. Mark Twain said that man was born somewhere halfway inbetween the angels and the French. But how about the old man who has lived his life and never added any worth to the world. Bernard Shaw thinks that the reasonable man adapts himself to the world and the unreasonable one adapts the world to himself; therefore all progress depends on unreasonable men. The old man was a reasonable one. Did realising his folly compensate? FALSE. Let the crushed sanitary napkin be a lesson to all the old men of the world, no matter age. Drink is the savior of the mediocre artists of the world, and the sustainer of the great ones, so what is the intersection? Let us throw pepper up the noses of all primeval men of the World's Society to Preserve the Non-Philosophy of Fist-Throwing Bigot Rednecks. Bullgesshittgel! When the trumpet sounds answer with the thunder of a billion migraine headaches upon all stagnant-

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'Cafeteria' cont'd

pointed out, this problem is a self-accelerating one for as rudeness grows, more student workers quit, making service to students less and less satisfactory, which causes the rudeness to

grow, etc. No student workers traced their dissatisfaction to the Cafeteria management, although some did indicate that they were ashamed to

have to serve some of the food that is served. They pointed out, however, that, considering the financial limitations imposed on Cafeteria management by Wesleyan's present financial crisis, the best food-preparation job possible is being done, in their opinion. Said one freshman innovation like the buffet suppers are always hampered by the fact that we have to use make-shift arrangements which aren't very aesthetically pleasing."

Present student workers indicated that they liked the salary raise this year to \$1.15 an hour., but said that they felt that being left with a double-job by other students' quitting or failing to show up for work really negated the raise.

Editorial

No one to whom we have talked, including the few proponents of honor systems, could say that honor systems work. Admitting that the evil in the world has its own concept of honor, all that one can say for an honor system is that it tries to use the majority honor to create uniform morality; yet almost everyone who has considered contemporary developments would agree that the concept of morality changes in time. So who can say, except for himself in the situations in which he finds himself, what is moral? So, also, who can say what is honorable? And yet an honor system would decide what is honorable and what is moral for everyone, forever.

Patently, then, honor systems cannot work. Their only force is in their attempt to damn the criminal as well as to punish him. Punishment is all that men, if they have souls at all, can inflict on lawbreakers; even the Spanish Inquisition left it to God to damn the souls of those they persecuted, but an honor system damns on earth the lawbreaker. Is that not too much, even for rapists and murderers? Tradition limits societal retaliation on lawbreakers to punishment; for example, when men are sentenced to death in England, the judge still says, "and may God have mercy on your soul."

Thus honor systems are distinguished only in that they do not work effectively and in that, when they do grind into motion, they punish inhumanly, cruelly, and unjustly.

Many readers this year will have observed that, from time to time, we have included in the DECREE poems or essays which we have found, in some respect, to be worthy of recommendation to the attention of our readers. This week, at the request of many of our readers, we announce formally a policy of including in our weekly format poetry and prose that students or faculty members may submit to us and that we judge to have literary quality worthy of publication or, at least, "redeeming social value."

Our justification of this policy is in, first, the fact that we define this publication as a college newspaper, second, the fact that a reasonably large proportion of our readership seems to want to read more creative literature, and finally, the fact that we like to read such work ourselves.

We hope sincerely that our poets' styles will offend no one; but in any case, nothing is approved for publication because of its offensiveness. Rather, such creative literary work as we publish is approved because, in our opinions, it has literary and/or social value.

The "Letter of the Apocalypse," on page three is the first in this series, which we proudly introduce.

The Decree

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PAX



ABOVE: Unwashed dishes left by early-leaving student workers in Wesleyan Cafeteria.