

Editorial

THE DECREE has recently found itself in a radical position. As this has not always been the case, the question becomes: has THE DECREE changed, or has its situation changed?

We believe that our editorial record has been consistent throughout the past year in endorsing and urging student power and students' rights, in supporting the ideal of mutual respect among the members of the Wesleyan community, and in expecting the college administration to keep its public and private promises. Such editorial statements have in the past not brought administration criticism or pressure to bear on us; and yet suddenly we find the full force of administration disapproval bearing down on us. As the facts broke about Mr. Hall's dismissal, faculty members suddenly feared to be quoted in the press; the administration suddenly became unwilling to give us any more facts; and THE DECREE's faculty advisor was suddenly subjected to great pressure to censor the story on Mr. Hall's dismissal.

We have, then, been journalistically consistent both in spirit and in fact and until now have received paternal approval from the administration. We can only conclude that the uncovering of the facts about Mr. Hall's dismissal has made it highly inconvenient for the administration to stick to its past declarations of principles.

We are, indeed, sorry for the inconvenience to the administration; we do hope that their resort will be to honesty -- at least within our community -- rather than to blackening THE DECREE or Mr. Hall.

FACULTY FORUM

by Dr. Allen S. Johnson

In the past few years increasing attention has been paid by social scientists and public figures to the problem of world population. Sir Julian Huxley, the eminent British biologist and lecturer, calls the population explosion "the most important and the most serious of all the problems now besetting the human species." Numerous demographers have predicted that if the world population continues to grow at the present rate, the human race in the next few decades will outgrow all possible increases in food supply. The only possible result, if this occurs, is war -- war on a mass scale undreamed of, war of the "haves" against the "have-nots." We are on a collision course with catastrophe, and we show no signs of changing course in time.

All these ideas have been presented repeatedly to the Western world, but thus far they have not shaken our apathy. The Roman Catholic pontiff has taken a rigid position against birth control within his communion, a position challenged by laymen and clerics in the Church, but still the official position. Americans themselves usually take the firm attitude that the underdeveloped world ought to take steps to control its population -- but of course that isn't our immediate concern. Americans have no problem with food supply. If anything, our problem is that we are too well fed. Nowhere in the Western world is there mass hunger.

Too little attention is paid, however, to the unfortunate effects which

population pressure is producing within the United States. We still look upon our own rapid increase in population not with alarm but with pride. This is a holdover from a day when we were populating a largely empty continent; we are no longer. Yet chambers of commerce still actively promote population growth, and TV masters of ceremonies tout mothers of twelve as heroines.

Actually, the day of large broods of children is past. The average American family today has only two or three children. Most of our population growth in this country results not from high birth rate as in the underdeveloped countries but from a drastic lowering of the death rate. Infant mortality has been practically eliminated, as have contagious diseases. But if our birth rate is not adjusted to approximate the lowering death rate, we will have the problem of continually expanding population. Enterprising demographers project that if the present rate of growth continues, in 365 years the United States as a whole will be as densely populated as New York City is now, and in 772 years -- assuming we could still feed them -- there would be only one square foot per person. Of course, such standing-room-only would in itself solve the problem!

What is population pressure doing to us now as a society? Almost all the growth in population is taking place in cities, and the greatest amount in the sprawling megalopolises such as that which stretches unbroken from Richmond to Boston. The problems which

megalopolis presents -- in housing, fire protection, air and water pollution, employment and especially police protection and education -- are even now getting completely beyond the power of municipal governments to solve.

But perhaps the most serious aspects of overcrowding are in the field of psychology. Gigantism in city growth exposes its inhabitants to fierce tensions and increasing frustration, to the anonymity of masses, to alienation, irrational aggression and despair. Some of this, at least, is owing purely to overcrowding. Psychologists experimenting with rat colonies say that rats, well fed and ventilated and cared for in every respect except being overcrowded for long periods, will ultimately become "psychotic" and begin behaving in ways quite un-rat-like. How directly this principle can be applied to human behavior is, of course, problematical and not subject to demonstration. I would venture the guess, however, that the rise in crime rate owes at least as much to overcrowding in cities as to decisions of the Supreme Court. And this only beings the catalogue of the ill effects of overpopulation.

So what do we do about it? Every day that passes makes the problem worse, and few Americans even recognize that population is a problem for us. Some countries, faced by economic necessity, have undertaken massive re-education campaigns by the national government and have succeeded in stabilizing population. Japan is a pertinent example. But first we must become concerned -- not only about the world's problems, but about our own. The techniques of population control and of mass education already exist. The money to finance a world-

wide educational project would be only a tiny fraction of the cost of our moon project. What is lacking is a conviction on the part of the American people -- and we are the only ones who can do the job -- that the problem is urgent and must be solved. We are incredibly complacent, and until we get concerned as a nation we will remain on a collision course with disaster.

Dr. Davis

(Continued from Page 1)

Rocky Mount; freshman writing award, the Rocky Mount Rotary Club; Wesleyan Players Award (dramatics) given anonymously; outstanding athlete of the year, Rocky Mount Civitan Club; Phariss - Strickland French Award, given anonymously; John Paul Jones History Award, the Nash County Committee of Colonial Dames; outstanding academic achievement, Rocky Mount Kiwanis Club; Dean of Students Award, to outstanding student organizations given by the dean; leadership and service award for women, the Pilot Club of Rocky Mount; leadership and service award for men, given by the college chaplain; and President's Cup Award

to outstanding senior from President Thomas A. Collins.

Special awards include three science awards given to students majoring in biology, chemistry, and mathematics; and the most valuable soccer player award, from Coach Bill Music.

Carnival

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Chairman Bill Brantley also expressed his organization's thanks to the two social fraternities, Nu Gamma Phi and Alpha Delta Chi, for their contribution to the elevator fund.

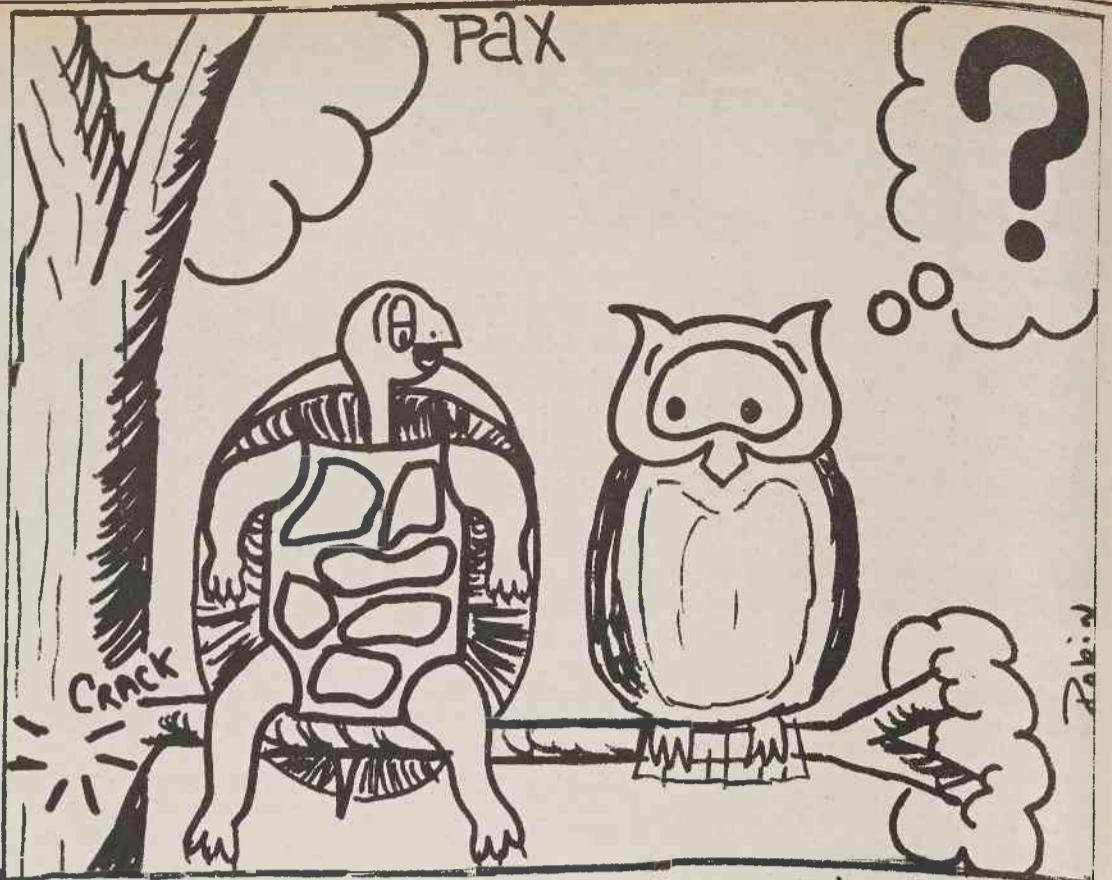
'Crucible'

(Continued From Page 1)

guilt and frustrated by a narrow faith which he cannot bring himself to deny.

Carolyn Estes in the role of Abigail Williams proved herself an actress of competence and skill. Her task was first to create a complex character for the audience and then to devise a secondary character for the audience and then to devise a secondary character whose deceptions can motivate the other actors; she carried it off beautifully.

Eileen O'Grady, in a role entirely unfamiliar (Continued On Page 3)



I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER, BUT I HAVE FAITH ENOUGH TO TELL THE STORY OF THE TURTLE WHICH CLIMBED A TREE TO GET AWAY FROM ITS ENEMIES. I KNOW THAT TURTLES DON'T CLIMB TREES -- BUT THIS ONE HAD TO. ... Dr. T. A. Collins

The Decree

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