

Don't Read This

unless you fully intend to read the ENTIRE EDITORIAL. Next week the three fraternities on campus will sponsor the annual Rush Week, a five-day series of activities -- parties, receptions, dinners, and what-have-you -- designed to attract new brothers into their respective camps. The observance of Rush Week is rather primitive. It is like so many other American institutional practices which are perpetuated for the sake of tradition rather than being based on any practical considerations. The week will go something like this:

On Monday night, all three fraternities will sponsor an open house for male students in their lounges. After this holocaust, the brothers will then gather to discuss the merits and demerits of the interested rushees. Meanwhile, the interested rushees will gather to discuss the merits and demerits of the brothers and the three fraternities. Everyone will be in bed by about 3 or 4 A.M., and will either skip Tuesday's classes or sleep through them, hoping to be ready for Tuesday night's functions. Throughout the week, the brothers will be determining, both individually and collectively, the persons whom they consider to possess the qualities most representative of their fraternity -- what it is and what it is to be. As the week wears on, a universal feeling of exhaustion settles over the student body. Studies and class assignments have been temporarily put aside, along with sleep and various other life functions which will all require their equal time at some point or another.

A few very interesting phenomena will be observed during the week. For one thing, fraternity members will all arm themselves with their most cheerful dispositions and go forth in a not-always genuine attempt to give the prospective member the big "snow job." Greeks will be seen eating and talking with non-Greeks who have never before occupied a minute's worth of their time. But we must not judge the fraternity members too harshly. For the most part, those who assume positions of leadership on the campus are members of one fraternity or another. Therefore, they are generally busy people. Quite honestly, a formal Rush Week is the only time that many fraternity members feel that they can take the time to look outward, and perhaps begin to cultivate some friendships which might have existed in the first place were it not for the inherent but undesirable exclusion which is practiced by any group of closely-knit people who share common interests and desires.

It is obvious the Rush Week was originally designed for large colleges, colleges in which qualified candidates for fraternity membership would never have adequate opportunity to acquaint themselves with the personalities and characteristics of each Greek system. At Wesleyan this is hardly the case. By the beginning of the second semester at a school such as ours, those who wish to become members of a fraternity should have ample means to make their interest known. By the same token, the fraternities should have some idea of those students whom they would consider a valuable asset to their organization. The pledge period could still be used as the proving ground for a candidate's acceptability and willingness to become a brother.

Rush Week is indeed a rather primitive, if not crude, method of attracting new candidates for fraternity membership. But regardless of its shortcomings, it is still the method which is used year after year. And so we should make the most of it.

There are, after all, several good features which stem from the formal rush system. The need to work together as a unified body is a tremendous boost to the individual fraternity, and often this spirit of unity will last long after the week has come to an end. Secondly, we must not forget that the functions are designed to allow Greeks and non-Greeks to become better acquainted and to better analyze the personalities involved. And thirdly, Rush Week provides a socially dead campus with a full week of partying and excitement. And this, perhaps, is the greatest feature of all.

Fraternities at Wesleyan serve a valuable, if not essential, function. Without them, social life would be virtually nonexistent, and other phases of college life would be considerably less exciting. As we enter Rush Week, let us do so in a spirit of cooperation, fairness, and honesty. This can and should be an exciting and enjoyable experience. Let's keep it that way.

Forecast '72-'73

Over the break I had plenty of time to do whatever I pleased and off and on I thought about the college. After three years at Wesleyan I have come to expect certain results in certain situations and so am not very surprised when a lot of things happen. While I was home I thought I'd do a little prognosticating and here is what I came up with:

S. G. A.

The one thing that is essential to the growth of our SGA in the year to come are officers (President and Vice President) that are able to stand on their own feet and arouse and lead the students, so that they can get what they want. This has generally not happened in the past and will not happen this year. The SGA will continue to be a paper tiger.

Academics

Unless recruiting has drastically changed, the students who are to carry track III on to greater and greater heights won't show up on this campus. Since they won't be coming the new three track program will lack the zest and brilliance it can easily have. There will be some more surprising changes in the faculty in terms of personnel changes. Faculty members will continue to play the numbers game for students. The psychology department will probably come out on top in the game with the languages and English getting more pressure. Most of the other majors will maintain their present status. May term and convocation will eventually be dropped due to lack of student interest. Enrollment will drop again next year.

Administration

No change in the coming year. Social Life

The SGA will become primarily a social organizer, but since the budget will remain approximately what it is now we can look forward to seeing Los Indios Tabaros (or whatever) and the Ferndale Ballet crop shooters, inc. Fraternities will prosper (although Sigma Omega will have growing pains) and continue to offer the majority of student preferred activities. As far as the frats and the Board of Trustees are concerned it seems likely that the frats will come off of probation but will have to both remain on campus and continue to be local. Drug use is approaching a peak and will increase in the coming year until the big bust comes.

Most of what I have said will probably surprise no one and to many it will sound pessimistic. Well Mr. Scrooge, the Ghost of Things to Come is subject to change. Those that have lead in the past years have failed to reach what they dreamed for merely because they just dreamed and did nothing.

Foundation Gift Is Announced

NEWS BUREAU--R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company has given \$100,000 to the North Carolina Foundation of Church-Related Colleges, according to an announcement received by Dr. Thomas A. Collins, President of N. C. Wesleyan College here.

Reynolds, a long-time supporter of church-related colleges, has contributed to the N. C. Foundation for 17 consecutive years, bringing the total contribution to \$1,480,000, according to Brant R. Snaveley, executive director of the Foundation.

N. C. Wesleyan is a member of the Church-Related Colleges Foundation, which has its offices in Winston-Salem and is a fund-raising organization for 26 North Carolina colleges, all privately funded. Sixty percent of the funds raised by the Foundation is divided equally among the member colleges, and the remaining 40 percent is distributed in shares based on enrollment.

The goal for the Foundation this year is to raise \$1 million before the end of its fund-raising campaign in April.

Convocations Calendar

Here is the program of convocations for Winter Semester, 1972. For the most part the Convocations Committee is continuing the theme of "Love and Death in America." Of a total of eight offerings, students can meet a semester's requirement by attending six.

January 13: Professor Donald Robinson, Smith College Department of Government, Northampton, Massachusetts, "For Love of God and Country: Faith and Politics in America."

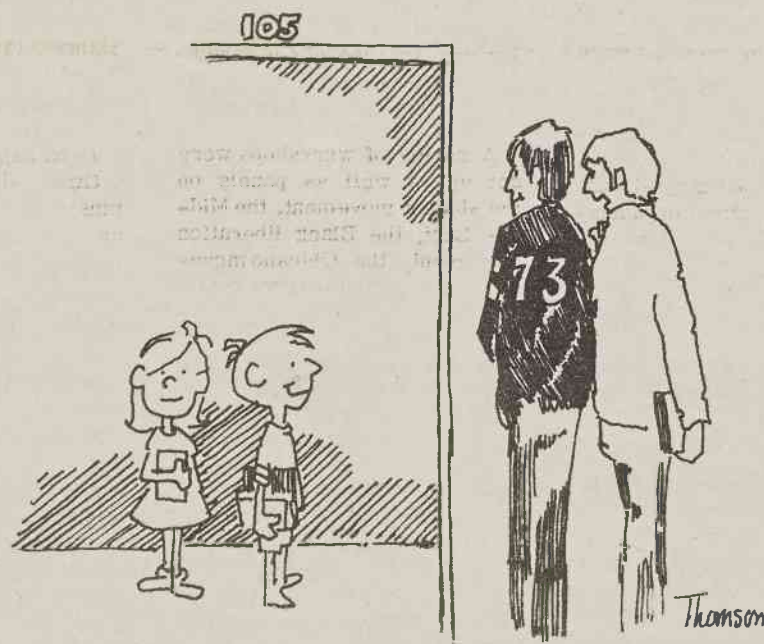
erica."

January 20: Dr. Takey Crist, UNC at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, "The Right to Death in Love: Abortion."

January 27: Manana, a play in one act by Joe Orton, performed by Gray Basnight and Carol Roane.

February 3: Mr. James Hunt, candidate for Lt. Governor of North Carolina.

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I hadn't realized just how much they've loosened up on admissions around here.

Notice

The Federal Government requires every person who is not a citizen of the United States to report his address to the Government each January. The Government has printed cards which non-citizens use to report their addresses. The cards are available at Post Offices of Offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The law requires that these cards be filled out before January 31 of each year.

This notice does not apply to you if you are a citizen of the United States. However, you will be assisting the Government and any of your friends who are not United States citizens if you will remind them of the address report requirement.

The Decree

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