

Because

This editor has been told more than once by the administration that it is unfortunate that the student newspaper finds itself editorially dwelling on faculty business: contracts, tenure, personality clashes, and committee blowups. The implication of such suggestions is not that some mild form of censorship should be self-imposed on the reporters of the DECREE by the editor, rather that these administrators share a concern which we too almost share. They believe that the student body should be spared worry and concern over problems that they have no control over and that such worry only breeds needless anxiety and discontent among students. And if we in the DECREE would be honest with ourselves, we would admit that 1) many students couldn't care less about these problems and 2) of those that do care, most would discover the truth without reading the details in the DECREE.

What then, could be our purpose for occasionally dwelling on problems in the faculty? Some would say that the editors have a built-in bias against certain programs and personalities; it would be difficult for us to deny that occasionally our personal feelings do slop over into what we consider our best journalistic efforts. Secondly, it might be argued that we are out to sling mud at the faculty and damage Wesleyan's public relations. Such a conclusion is, of course, absurd since no one in their right mind would try to destroy a four year, \$10,000 educational investment. Our primary reason for dredging up the facts is that the student body has a right to know, and if their investment (which according to the N. C. Annual Conference Journal represents 72% of the total support) is endangered by whatever cause, they should know. And since you support 72% (actually, it's 100%) of this newspaper, we should tell you.

Plymouth Experiment Revisited

By BOB O'KEEF

Recently Dr. Sim Wildé had printed in the DECREE a story about his educational experiments. In that story, he related some of the facts about the program in Plymouth, North Carolina.

However, I do not feel that he gave a fair evaluation of the program in his story, and since students will be needed to fill this program next year, I thought that it would be good for them to have some basis upon which to make their decision as to whether to take part in this program or not.

The program has many advantages; but it also has an equal number of disadvantages. The program--which is called "Values--Freedom to Learn"--is one of the most innovative educational experiments in this state at the present time.

It enables the students to work more on their own more than ever before. It eliminates homogenous grouping -- the grouping of students by their learning abilities--and places all of the students in the same learning environment, thus allowing the faster students to help those who are slower in learning.

The program teaches the students to be more self-sufficient and, as a result, he can learn at his own rate of speed. But probably the most important aspect of the program is that it lets the teacher experiment

in many different teaching methods.

This is where the students teachers, or Interns, are needed. The Interns are able to teach small groups of students while the teacher assigned to the class can take other small groups within the same class and teach them.

There are five students from Wesleyan college involved in the program. Scott Polley and I are assigned to Plymouth High School while Lee Bowers, Howard Payne, and Earnest Clark are all assigned to Washington County Union School in Roper, N.C.

Now that you have some background of the program, let me start with the advantages of being involved in it:

The most important advantage is that students can learn when they are sophomores or juniors in college whether or not they want to be teachers, instead of waiting until their last semester of college to find out, for many times it is too late to change then.

Secondly, the student learns more on the job than he could possibly learn taking Educational Psychology or any other educational courses no matter how valuable these courses may seem at the time.

Thirdly, the student interns are thrown headlong into a situation where they must either swim or drown, much like first year teachers are in most educational jobs.

Fourthly, a student learns about his limitations and his weaknesses; he learns his strong points; he learns what he cannot do and what he can do in regard to teaching; and he learns, most importantly of all, that teaching is a full-time profession.

And now for some of the disadvantages:

First, one must realize that he will be off campus for an entire year. This can be a most exasperating experience. It is very difficult to find a good place to live in Washington County, and when one does, he can expect to pay at least 40% of his \$100.00 monthly paycheck for his room alone.

Secondly, a car is almost a necessity. If you do not have a car while being in this program, or have access to one, you are going to have problems.

Thirdly, one must understand when he begins this program that he ends his social life almost completely. Despite the fact that Plymouth High School is loaded with beautiful girls, they are all off limits to men interns, and the male students are all limits to women interns. Plymouth is a small town, and Roper is even smaller. There is no way that an intern could date a student without the whole town knowing about it.

Finally, one must know how to cook, for restaurants in the small city charge a fortune, and it is next to impossible to afford eating out every night.

I hope that I have given a fair account of what this program is like, and I would suggest that if you plan to be a teacher, you should look into the possibility of being in this program next year. But before you make any definite plans, talk with someone who has been in the program and get the low-down on it. The program is only rewarding if you can survive the limitations of it. If you can, it will be the most rewarding year of your college life.

Dear Chief . . .

I am happy to announce that the library will soon proudly display a complete set of magnificent window draperies. Mr. M. H. Thompson of Rocky Mount with unparalleled generosity, has donated sufficient fabric to furnish draperies for every window in the library. The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library earn our thanks for their efforts in securing the gift.

The fabric is a fine quality flameproof cotton velvet, which, when made into full-length draperies as is planned, will go far to create the warm and inviting atmosphere we want for the library.

Mr. Thompson's gift has already supplied the library with materials we could never have afforded. Now the Friends of the Library and the college must undertake to pay for the other expenses of the decorating project. Lining and hardware must be bought and workmanship paid for, not inconsequential costs. Would you care to join with

us in completing this valuable project? Your special gifts will be sincerely appreciated, and I am confident that the new appearance of the library will assure you your gift was well used.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give. The splendid loyalty of the Friends of the Library makes all the difference.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Joseph T. Macpherson
Librarian

Anytime-Anywhere

There is something quite undefinable about meeting a friend you haven't seen in a long time. He and his girl had both gone north and I had remained where I was. We had both changed in many ways but still the bond was there.

He asked me to meet him at the Club but even though I had a load of work to do I still went. Something inside made me go, whatever the excuse. So we both began to drink--not a lot--and then the barriers began to melt. We talked about the old. I kept pointing out people we both had known and told him some of the stuff that had happened while he was gone. Stories that had seemed old to me were suddenly funny again.

We both laughed and rapped on and on. People came and went but neither of us really noticed. I was just into him and he was in the present--past noticing the change and wanting to be both here and there. Suddenly, the clock struck twelve and the carriage turned into a pumpkin--closing time. I knew all along that I had work to do but when I thought about it I knew this is where I wanted to be.

The thing about it is--this has happened before and unless I miss my guess--it will happen again. Some things are just stronger than the forces of change. It almost makes you wish.



Now that those two are getting married maybe we'll get some peace & quiet.

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

EDITOR Bruce Wright
ASSISTANT EDITOR Marshall Old
BUSINESS & ADVERTISING MGR. Chuck Martin
CIRCULATION MANAGER Gail Mabe
PHOTOGRAPHER Jay Van Hoose

COLUMNISTS: Ralph Rose, Will Thomson, Tom Hardison
Doug Kozlowski

REPORTERS: Liz Reece, Betty Anne Lee, Charlie Rogers,
Ralph Rose, Molly Pollack, Jane Gravely,
Gray Basnight

Business Address: Box 3056, Wesleyan College
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27801

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WESLEYAN STUDENTS
Opinions Published Do Not Necessarily Represent
Those Of Wesleyan College

Notice



The Friends of
the Library Term
Paper Contest
is still open.
Deadline is
March, 1972.

Want This Issue Sent Home?

Write In Your Parent's Names And Address
And The Decree Will Mail It For You Free.

NAME
ADDRESS
.....
Please Print