

# Thanksgiving

Giving and receiving are two of the finest arts in our culture today. The person who has not developed a mature attitude toward giving can never truly appreciate that which he receives. Wesleyan has recently been given two large gifts: an elaborate and functional patio which will be constructed behind the Student Union, and a large number of dogwood trees and shrubbery which will beautify the campus. Unfortunately, many of our students have never learned the art of receiving gratefully and graciously.

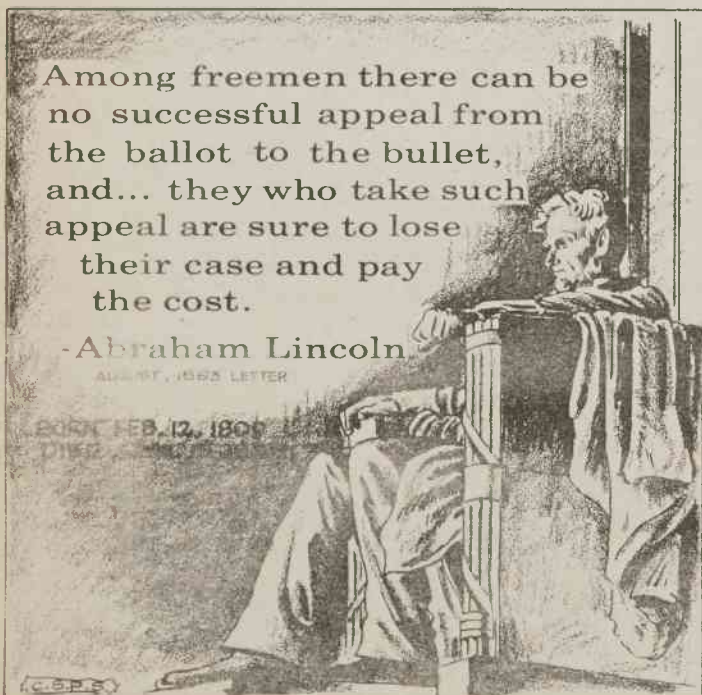
Recently we have heard several students complaining about the nature of these gifts. "Why do we need a patio and dogwoods when we don't even have an auditorium or a swimming pool?" Indeed, it would be very nice if someone would donate \$2,000,000 for a fine arts complex, but such thinking is little more than idle dreaming. Only factual consideration is valid in this regard.

Mr. Frank Brown is a true friend of Wesleyan. He has given large amounts to the college on several occasions. As a result of his generosity, we have a beautiful front wall and gateways, the fountain, the carillon, and a forthcoming patio. These are the gifts that make our college a better place to live, the little niceties of life that the college would never think to purchase for itself. How often have we heard, "Oh yes, Wesleyan. That's the school with the long wall, isn't it?" Yes it is. And that wall will continue to be our trademark for years to come.

The Wesleyan community owes a tremendous vote of thanks to Mr. Brown. And we hope that Frank Brown Day will be a fine tribute to this generous friend.

# Election Day

It is needless to say that 1972 is a political year though for the sake of clarity, we will begin this editorial by saying so. As the year progresses, interest mounts, and as a service to the Wesleyan community, we of the DECREE are spending the next two weeks conducting a political poll to determine the preferences of our students for the major presidential candidates--Democratic, Republican, and Independent. We hope to reveal the results in next week's issue; however, one interesting detail is beginning to develop. A majority of our students have failed to register to vote--those of us who have just recently received the right to the ballot evidently do not intend to use this right. Ironically, many students have contended on the poll that the 18-21 year old vote will prove to be a major factor in determining the outcome of the elections, yet they also report that they have not registered. Something is wrong here. Our conclusion is that the February and April breaks should be the times to register; and September, a time to vote.



## Open Forum:

# Dr. Collins Asked About Illegal Campus Drug Usage

**Editor's Note:** After the recent campus concern over the use of drugs and the public letter by Dr. Collins in the local press (reprinted below), the DECREE asked Dr. Collins for an interview on the subject "Drugs and the Wesleyan Campus."

**DECREE:** What, in your opinion, is the extent of illegal drug usage among Wesleyan students?

**Collins:** I have no way of knowing with any precision. A student who has been at Wesleyan for several years could answer this more accurately, but from answers given on standard questionnaires by the American Council on Education,

drug experimentation involves many college students today, but drug use with any regularity or intensity involves a small minority of college students. Our students responding, in unsigned questionnaires, indicate that only a small minority have any serious interest in or problem with drugs on campus. I personally believe that drug use is less frequent on the Wesleyan College campus than on the average college campus as the problem is presented to me in state and national seminars.

**DECREE:** Does the college intend to take any action to alleviate the problem?

**Collins:** The College has

consistently taken action for several years to reduce the problem. We have sent regular notices on one or more occasions in each of the past three years noting the problem, the risk involved (both legal and physical), and the college rules on this subject. Illegal drug use or possession is clearly understood to be against college rules and regulations. We have had clinics with our entering students each year. We have reminded our Assistant Resident Counselors that they must assist us in reducing any incidence of use to an absolute minimum. We will cooperate with concerned students and, when necessary, with officers of the state in enforcing these regulations.

Furthermore, we will be glad to receive and consider suggestions from responsible and concerned students about steps we might take to reduce or eliminate any drug use problem known to exist here.

**DECREE:** Many students seem to feel that the college, because of financial difficulties, will hesitate to suspend students who participate in illegal activities or disciplinary matters. What are your thoughts on this matter?

**Collins:** My position is clear and should be understood clearly. We will discipline any student guilty of willful disregard of college regulations, and this includes drug abuse, or any other violation. If the infraction merits suspension, that student will be suspended today as readily as ever. We will not tolerate willful violation of college regulations under the assumption that "the college needs my money." The rights of law-abiding students must be protected and their integrity preserved, even if this does "cost" the college some income. Students who believe as you indicate in your question are 100% mistaken. By their disregard of the rules made for the whole college, they may keep us from attracting able students who want to be a part of this kind of college community, so we will not hesitate to try to make this the kind of college community we profess

(Continued On Page 3)



President Thomas A. Collins discusses with DECREE staff his views on illegal drugs.

# Open Letter Reprinted

All students have been notified in writing on two occasions in the past eighteen months that POSSESSION, USE, SALE OR PURCHASE OF MARIJUANA IS AGAINST THE LAW IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

This college cannot and will not in any manner interfere with the full and proper enforcement of the laws of this state. The college is obliged to cooperate with law enforcement officers when their actions are proper and legal. WE CAN DO NO LESS THAN THIS.

Though we may fervently wish that all students here avoid the trauma of arrest and trial for any felonious act, we know that avoidance of such grief can only be assured when felonious or illegal behaviour is avoided. Hence, we again urge all students to obey the law, refuse to become involved in any way in use or traffic in marijuana, and steadfastly resist the temptation to experiment with marijuana, LSD, or any illegal narcotics, drugs, or substances. As has been noted by others, these experiments can be dangerous to you physically, and will surely put your personal freedom in jeopardy.

In summary, if you have any marijuana (pot, grass, or whatever you may call it) GET RID OF IT NOW. The same advice holds for any other illegal sub-

stances. Furthermore, STAY CLEAR OF ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH THESE ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES IN THE FUTURE. THE RISKS ARE SIMPLY TOO GREAT. If you choose to ignore this good and well-intended advice, you will pay for your poor judgment sooner or later -- and perhaps sooner than you planned.

Thomas A. Collins  
President

# 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  
Charlie Rogers

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

Business Address: Box 3055, Wesleyan College  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27801

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