

We Made It Back O. K. !!!

For several weeks now there has been a problem existing on campus which must be solved. It concerns not only me but just about anyone and everyone in the Wesleyan community. The problem is our campus transportation—the buses. There are just a few recent incidents that I would like to call to the attention of everyone concerning these buses. About four weeks ago now the Wesleyan Soccer team left on a Saturday morning for High Point, North Carolina to play their first game of the season. I had about ten people on my bus, there were about six people and all the equipment on the second bus and there were nine or ten people and the coach on third bus. We were all cruising along just outside of Greensboro when the second bus began to die and I mean that's exactly what it did. The first bus with the coach in it didn't notice and kept going. So I pulled over and collected everyone in bus #2. That gave my bus a total of 16 passengers and all the athletic equipment. That was a real neat ride. The coach finally missed us and doubled back to take part of the burden, but it was still crowded. The two buses started back for Rocky Mount, and didn't lose sight of each other until Wake Forest, but we figured that was alright because Coach was behind us. Just outside of Rocky Mount it started, this beating sound on the bottom of the bus. We had lost a recap on a four lane by-pass. So we just went slow, about 30 MPH, till we got back to campus. We all did get back. Then I decided I'd better wait around and tell Mr. Horne what had happened to my bus, but his bus never came either. Instead they had to walk back. Yep, that's right, their bus gave out too. Flat tire behind the campus I believe. Now that's a great record 3 out of 3. But I'm not through. The trip to Lynchburg was equally exciting since the brake lights on the blue bus didn't function and almost caused a wreck between the buses. We made back in one piece that trip too. Then there was our last road trip to Pembroke. Nothing had changed. The brake light on the blue bus still didn't work, and on the way back on a four lane inter-state, cruising at 65 mph, the same bus that lost a recap before lost another recap on the same tire. Who said riding those old buses wasn't exciting? But we made it back ok.

Now the real problem is who is at fault? The coaching staff won't let the players drive because it isn't safe. Is riding the buses safe? We can't afford to charter a bus, so we just patch up the old ones. What is the solution? Well I hope someone upstairs tells me before the next away game because I don't know how many more times I'll be able to say "BUT WE MADE IT BACK OK!!!"

Fuel Shortage: Be Prepared

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Millions of words have been spoken or written about the fuel shortage this year. Even so, there's too much of an air of complacency abroad in the land. It doesn't appear that the full impact of the situation has sunk into the public consciousness yet.

It's true we did manage to squeak by this summer without the dramatic gas shortages, which almost developed. It's true we got by in tobacco curing season—by the skin of our teeth. But the worst may be in front of us. With winter coming on, the stage is being set for a fuel shortage which just may drastically affect the lives of millions of Americans, including us in North Carolina. And we just must do all we can to get ready.

The experts at the Interior Department, who are close to this national problem, now refuse to give assurances that there will be enough heating oil to go around this winter or enough gas next summer—if the winter is cold.

Gasoline, fuel oil, kerosene and propane all come out of the same wells. They're manufactured products—refined from crude oil. And when our refineries are already operating at capacity, the increased production of one product automatically cuts down on the production of others. A shortage of one fuel is tied in with shortages in other fuels.

These shortages spill over and affect natural gas, too. Last winter, many local natural gas distributors had to use propane to supplement their supply of natural gas, even though the winter was mild. But, that helped create this year's propane shortage, and now these same distributors probably won't be able to get the propane they'll need in a pinch. What propane we have will be desperately needed for agricultural purposes.

The fuel shortage, which has already drastically hurt many jobbers and service station owners in the Second Congressional District, may rapidly become a crisis the likes of which we've never known before. It may not become so if it is a mild winter, if American companies succeed in buying enough refined oil from abroad, if none of our dangerously overloaded refineries breaks down, if Europe has a mild winter and doesn't compete for the oil we need, and if the stormy politics of Arabia don't interrupt the oil flow.

But there are too many "ifs." The potential for disaster is here. In fact, a recent government-wide study asserted the disheartening news that there is "no possibility" American refineries will be able to meet the national needs for distillate

fuels this winter—and that includes diesel fuel, as well as No. 2 heating oil.

The only way out is to import at least 650 thousand barrels of oil a day. Unfortunately, the Interior Department's considered opinion is that all the dollars in America can't get but 550 thousand barrels a day from foreign lands this winter — at best. So, we start off way behind.

It's going to be a bad situation, and the real question is—just how bad will it be? America must face the facts and be prepared. Even with a Mandatory Allocation (or distribution) Program, the crisis will still be upon us.

For reasons of expediency, America has allowed its domestic oil industry to decline for seventeen years—despite many, many warnings. Now we have an instant shortage, which really isn't "instant" at all. To make it worse, we aren't using our coal properly, even though we've got more of it than any other country—enough to last us hundreds of years.

What can we do? Conserve! Conserve! Constructive conservation measures are desperately needed—NOW. We've never really tried to conserve energy. Instead we've used it lavishly, without regard for the consequences.

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Editor-in-Chief.....Charlie Rogers
Associate Editor.....Tom Hardison
Advertising MGR.....Phillip Frazer
Business MGR.....Charlie Rogers
Circulation MGR.....Bob Lauranzon
Sports Writer....."Smokey" Cameron
Typist.....Peggy Verkler
Photographer.....Jay Van Hoose
Adviser.....Mr. Bruce Van Blarcom
Columnists: Tom Hardison
Reporter: Donald Williams

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

All you smokers
who plan to quit
someday:



Can you
throw away that pack
right now?

It's not easy, is it?
In 20 years, after 146,000 more cigarettes,
you think it's going to be easier?
Don't kid yourself.
Quit now. You'll never get a chance like this again.



U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
This space contributes as a public service.