



VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 5

# The Decree

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1981

## The times have changed and so has Wesleyan

By Martie Barbour  
Decree staff

Over the last decade Wesleyan has undergone many changes. The changes have taken place in students, administration, the style of management, the educational program, the composition of faculty, and in student life.

Dr. Wilde cited that back in 1970 there was a great deal of student involvement in the SGA. But the enthusiasm has worn off, and students aren't nearly as involved now as they once were. The resident student population has decreased over the years, so this may have some bearing on the drop in active student involvement.

Dr. Wilde also mentioned that he has noticed a "Do your own thing" attitude in Wesleyan students today. On the other hand, Mr. Garlow feels that students today are more mature and more self-confident than they were ten years ago. He added that both groups (those in '70, and those in '80) are searching, as all college students would be, but the approach is more systematic and logical now.

The average age of the student has gone up, as more and more people who opted not to get a college education are now seeing the importance of it. With the evening college program there is more community

involvement, which also contributes to the rise in the average student age.

The curriculum has vastly improved over the decade. This change has led to about a 50 percent increase in students studying in professional areas, said Wilde.

In 1975 there was a critical financial crisis which brought about many changes. The college was forced to take a serious look at what was being offered, and what could be done to improve the college in general. It had lost its vitality, but the crisis made everybody pull together in an effort to get Wesleyan back on its feet again.

Majors in both Business and Criminal Justice were two important additions, as they are two of the biggest majors here now. They weren't even offered before 1975. Some other majors that have been added in the last ten years include Nursing and Elementary Education.

The student-faculty relationships on the Wesleyan campus are unlike those on most college campuses today. But it hasn't always been that way. Back in the '70's the professors catered only to students' academic needs. Now there is more of a closeness between them. "We are not as stagnated as we used to be, as an institution," said Garlow.

Faculty members are willing to provide what students want, as well as what they need. Garlow noted that from a teaching standpoint,

and from a student-oriented standpoint, Wesleyan has a better overall faculty now than ever before.

The administration was forced to undergo an enormous change after the 1975 financial crisis. There was a complete natural turnover in this area. Wilde said that the administration is better now than it ever has been.

The management was also forced to make some drastic changes due to the

financial crisis. In the early '70's it just glided along, and "rolled with the punches," so to speak. Since 1975 management has had a much more aggressive approach. Garlow said that running a college is much like rolling a rock up a hill. If you stop to rest the rock will roll back down the hill. So it is with a college—everything must be in forward motion.

Mr. Garlow has seen the biggest improvement in the college in the area of student

life. In 1970 there was a dean of students who was in charge of the entire student life program. The program was not very effective, as it is impossible for one man to run the entire thing. This didn't change until 1977 when the staff was increased, and the quality and effectiveness rose dramatically.

"Good things have happened," said Garlow, "but the changes that have taken place haven't gotten us nearly where we ought to be."



Wesleyan has changed, but we still have a long way to go.

### Free at last

By Martie Barbour  
Decree staff

In the wee hours of the morning on January 19, President Carter announced that an agreement had been made with Iran to free the American hostages.

Carter agreed to unfreeze the Iranian assets that he had previously frozen, in exchange for the freedom of the 52 American hostages.

After 444 days of captivity, the 52 were finally set free. A plane landed in Algiers, Algeria, at approximately 8 p.m. on the 20th, and about 45 minutes later the freed Americans were seen on the television across the U.S. for the first time in many months.

The 52 American heroes were then flown to Wiesbaden, West Germany for medical and psychological care. Jimmy Carter was sent to greet them by newly installed President Ronald Reagan, as the hostages were released Inauguration Day.

Carter said that the 14 months of captivity was a savage act of barbarity by Iran. He also added that terrorism does not pay, as he had unfrozen only \$3 billion of \$11 to \$12 billion of Iranian assets that had been frozen.

The former hostages and their families will have a long and difficult adjustment to make. But I think that we should thank God that they are all safe and well and free at last.

## Good news for med students

Taken from a report from the Rockefeller Foundation  
By Kenneth S. Warren, M.D., and John T. Bruer, Ph.D.

An enduring myth within the academic world is that getting into medical school is exhaustingly difficult and that the doors are open only to science majors—hence the soul-destroying premed rat race. Leaders of the medical profession themselves generally hold this belief, yet the facts are quite otherwise. They suggest that an excellent piece of advice for an outstanding student eager to be admitted to medical school is to major in music.

The central fact is this: over 50 percent of all applicants to medical schools this year will find a place in an American school. Every year since 1975, when one applicant in 2.8 was admitted, the odds have shortened in favor of the premed student. In 1978, 17,000 of 36,000 applicants were successful, a ratio of 1 in 2.1. For the 1980 entering class, the ratio is 1 in 1.8. Demographic trends indicate that the odds will improve for the next several years.

Although changes of 1 in 2 leave half of all aspiring physicians frustrated, the situation is considerably better than most

undergraduates caught in the premed grind believe.

There is competition for admission to medical school, but given a 50-50 chance, the rampant premed anxiety appears to be unwarranted. Excessive anxiety can be attributed in part to misperceptions based on incorrect or inaccurate information.

Of the 17,000 applicants admitted to medical school in 1978, two-thirds majored in natural sciences, 8 percent in social sciences, and 4 percent in the humanities. Acceptance rates for these groups were, respectively, 46, 42, and 50 percent. By major subject, the candidate most likely to succeed is the biochemistry major, with a 59 percent acceptance rate, following surprisingly, by music at 58 percent. Although relatively few nonscience majors apply, they are extremely competitive in the admissions race.

Many medical educators do seek a diversified student body and indicate that there is no perceptible bias against nonscience majors in the admissions process.

There is much more involved in the practice of medicine than scientific competence. In fact, many

medical educators are concerned that scientific and technical skills are being overemphasized in medicine.

Prospective medical students should know some science background is essential for medicine, but that medicine is not exclusively a science. Other values, methods, and perspectives, which are less objective and methodical, have an important and recognized place in medicine. This should give further encouragement to those whose intellectual interests are not confined solely to the sciences, but who still wish to pursue a medical career.

If you are interested in medical school:

—Your chances are good. The chances of being admitted to an American medical school are presently better than 1 in 2. The situation is not as bad as you think. It is and will be competitive, but your prospects are not as bleak as you imagine them to be.

—You do not have to be a biochemist or a molecular biologist to gain admission to medical school. There is no bias against the nonscience major in the admissions process. Relatively few nonscience majors apply, but

those who do are extremely successful. Fulfill the basic requirements, do well, and pursue your own intellectual interests.

—There is more to medicine than science. Medical educators are aware and concerned about overemphasizing scientific and technical skills in medicine. Not all skills, perspectives, and methods needed by the physician can be learned in the laboratory. Medicine is an art as well as a science, whose pursuit and appreciation is fostered by a wide and varied cultural experience.

—A nonscience major is no handicap in medical school. A recent study has shown that medical school performance and selection of residency are not significantly different for the science and nonscience majors.

The goal of the educator and counselor should be that stated by Edmund Pellegrino at the Rockefeller conference. "What we want to get across to students is that you can major in whatever you please, and so long as you do well, you are likely to get into medical school."