



# The Decree

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

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## Communications Major Proposed

By REGGIE PONDER, JR.

North Carolina Wesleyan's curriculum committee is currently considering a proposal for a new major in Communications.

The proposal is in response to suggestions from students and prospective students. Dean Stephen Fritz calls the proposal

"long overdue." Scott Booker, Wesleyan student, says of the proposed major: "It definitely would be an asset to the college." Another Wesleyan student, Steve Mac Eachern, feels that a Communications major "would be more flexible" than some majors presently offered.

No formal action has been taken yet on the proposal. How-

ever, Dean Fritz says: "Probably, by the end of November, we will have a new major in Communications."

Dr. Paul deGatengno, chairman of the Department of English, has some reservations about initiating a Communications major at Wesleyan. Such a major is, according to deGateng-

no, "very difficult to initiate," and "requires a great expenditure to hire new faculty and to buy new equipment. I think we can address the kinds of things students want with what we presently have." deGatengno adds, however, that "We always have to look for ways to improve what we are doing."

"I think a Communications

major has an attraction for students," said Carl Pagles, Dean of Admissions. Pagles adds, however: "I don't think there is a major we could design that would be a panacea. Ultimately, what people come here for is the environment. When we look at a potential major," said Pagles, "we have to study it to see if it will service the students better."

## Council Working To Help Improve Life At Wesleyan

By WINDY CHAMBLESS

The Community Council is quietly working on making Wesleyan a better place. Almost unnoticed, the Council is working to aid the entire college community.

It is a fact that students at Wesleyan have been unaware of the importance of the Community Council.

Pat Vyas, president of the Community Council, said that "so far the Council has done pretty well, especially the Activities Committee. People have been more responsive and are putting more effort into the organization."

The Community Council acts as a major governing body for the campus community, and acts upon academic and social concern. The concerns of the students are a high priority. However, because it is composed of students, faculty, non-academic personnel, and administrators, the Community Council handles, either in part or in whole, all matters concerning the community of North Carolina Wesleyan College.

The Student Life Committee is perhaps the most highly visible part of the student government. They make suggestions concerning social and entertainment events.

Vyas and other committee members are trying to get on settled ground so that student life will be better next year. "So far there have not been any ma-

major problems that cannot be ironed out," Vyas said. "The Council is going through its birth period."

Vyas hopes that the entire campus community will take part in the Community Council. "It is a community effort and everybody should pitch in and act as one, otherwise you have too few people doing too much. I want to jump into the situation with both feet and make this college a better place," Vyas said.



**ALL THAT JAZZ** — Members of the North Carolina Wesleyan College Jazz Ensemble perform at Rocky Mount's annual Down East Festival of the Arts on Oct. 12. The ensemble, made up of students, staff members, and community residents, performed for about 45 minutes and warmed up the crowd for "The Association." (Photo by Joyce Bonomo.)

## Freshmen SAT scores increase

**NEW YORK, NY (CPS)** — This year's college freshman pushed the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score up faster than any year since 1963, the College Board announced.

While board officials, who oversee the administering of the test nationwide, attribute the increases to more scholarly high school students and harder high school courses, some critics think it's because more students are taking SAT coaching classes.

Whatever the reasons, the average verbal test score was 431, up from 426 last year. The average math score was 475, an increase from 471 a year ago.

According to Director of Admissions Carl Pagles, the average total SAT score for Wesleyan freshman this year is 796.

"1985 is the fourth consecutive year in which at least one the scores went up," says George H. Hanford, president of the College Board.

The increase has been even more dramatic at Wesleyan. Pagles stated that six years ago SAT scores ranged between 720 and 740.

All ethnic groups and both men and women recorded higher average scores, Hanford points out.

"All of these trends would seem to indicate that there is a more positive attitude toward academic pursuits in our high schools and that many efforts at the local, state, and national levels over the past decade to improve the education of college-bound students have begun to bear fruit," Hanford asserts.

He adds more high school students have been taking honors courses in recent years.

While the trend is encouraging, Hanford says "it is also clear that we have no grounds for being complacent about the state of education in this country. We still have a long way to go."

Hanford adds that approximately one million college freshmen who took the SAT made up only 37 percent of the students in the high school class of 1985.

Others don't credit school reform for the increases, however.

Average scores rose primarily because more students are taking SAT tutoring courses, claims Allan Nairn, Co-author of a 1980 critique of the test.

"Some people benefit from the

coaching privilege," he says, implying students who can afford to take coaching courses have an advantage over others.

Various studies, all of them disputed by the College Board and the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which actually writes the SAT's and computes the scores, assert preparatory courses can improve students' scores by as much as 100 points.

As a result, "coaching is a growing industry," says David White, who has written two books about how to take college admissions tests.

"At the moment, I'm going through the Graduate Record Exam with a student," White said during a phone interview, "and we are getting the right answers without even reading the passages."