

## Opinions and Editorials

# Students who try can find activity

Semesters have come and gone here at Wesleyan without every one getting involved in the various extra-curricular activities offered. We hear the same old thing each year, "There's nothing to do around here." This year, as in past years, students are saying it again.

There is absolutely no reason for these negative attitudes because with a small college such as Wesleyan come more opportunities for students to participate. Problems of boredom can be solved with a short visit to the Student Union, the gym, or the music annex.

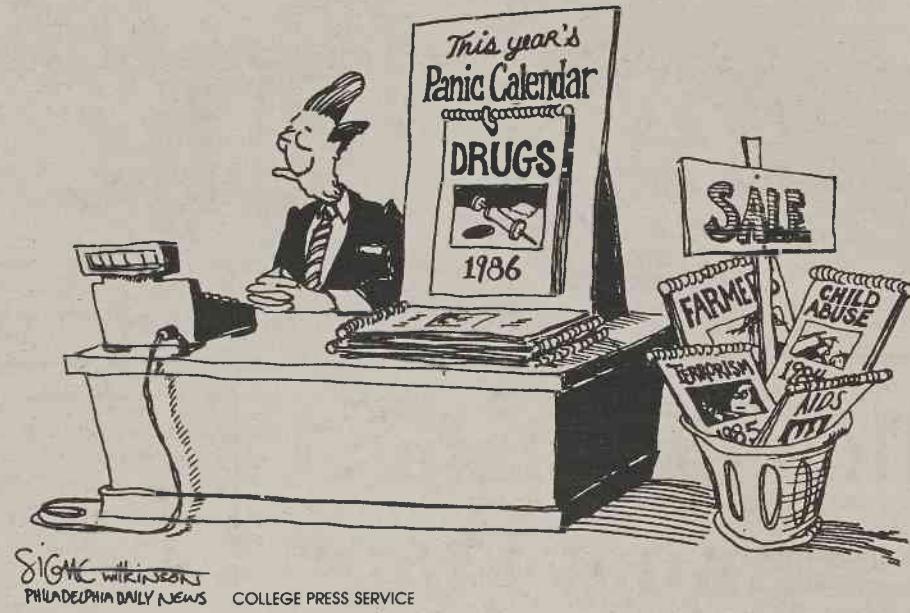
Various opportunities await the Wesleyan student. The Student Life Department offers you student government, yearbook and newspaper staffs, and various social and activity committees. Some of these activities may not be well publicized, but all you have to do is ask someone. The people

who complain the most about student life here at Wesleyan are usually the people who don't have enough sense to open their mouth and ask about it.

NCWC has many fine athletic teams, all you have to do is have the talent. Even if conference sports aren't your bag, there are always intramurals offered such as softball, football, and volleyball.

For the musically inclined Wesleyan offers the Jazz Band, the Wesleyan Singers, and the all-new Archbishops rock band.

Extra-curricular activities are essential to a well-rounded college education. This applies in the real world also. An outgoing student is more prone to be hired than a student who just went to college to attend classes. Plenty of opportunities await the Wesleyan student. It is just a matter of choosing what you would like to do.



# Wesleyan has special role

By LINDA FLOWERS

Yale has a new president. A young man named Benno Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt is himself a Yale, a legal scholar who returns now as Yale's president after a stint as dean of the law school at Columbia. In his inaugural address the new president had this to say about education in the liberal arts:

There is a simple truth about liberal arts education and that is — that studying what is outside us in an open, curious, even playful way can give us two indispensable gifts. One is happiness. And the other is the gift of empathy.

Our education (he continued) in the end prepares us not only for our profession, but for the two-thirds of our life that is not about our jobs, our work, our status. But about dailiness. About inwardness. About our capacities for affiliation.

(*New York Times*, Sept. 21)

Nothing new here, to be sure. Some of us may even wince at the implication (yet again!) that a man's profession can be so neatly separated from his dailiness; we may argue that it is precisely such compartmentalization as this that is both a main cause of the split between liberal education and education-for-work, and its unfortunate result. Nevertheless, Mr. Schmidt's point bears attention: that real education, while it may often include training for a particular job, does not consist essentially in such training.

This is the distinction — and crucial it is — that prevents a small, liberal-arts college like North Carolina Wesleyan from becoming a community college or a technical institute. Our comparison with these other schools must always take into account the fact of our inherent difference from them; such difference that for us to think in terms of our being "better than" (or "worse than") they, is tantamount to comparing apples with oranges.

Wesleyan's mission, unlike that mandated by the General Assembly for these schools, is not tied to, nor does it derive from, the needs of the eastern North Carolina marketplace; less yet with whether our seniors have a specific job awaiting them

upon graduation. Our purpose is more serious than this. The college was founded on another set of principles; the church continues its support because it thinks we are providing something other than what can be had elsewhere in the region.

The question is, properly, not whether jobs await our seniors, but whether our seniors are educated, and hence worthy of their hire; or, rather, whether our graduates — no matter their major — are qualitatively different because they have attended this particular college.

Of course I want our students to find desirable employment; more than this, however, I want them all their lives to be capable observers of the human comedy, able to tell a hawk from a handsaw, proficient citizens of their time and place. I want them "to feel what wretches feel." I want them to toil in the vineyard honorably, and with passionate intensity, and once in a while, at least, I want them to read a book or go to a play, look — really look — at a painting or a red wheelbarrow, listen to Mozart, write a letter to the *Daily Telegram* or *The New York Times* — one that I won't cringe to read.

And none of these things, I am convinced, can they fully be or do if they persist in thinking of their education as — if they are, indeed, taught that education is — primarily education-for-work. If we ourselves

don't understand this, or don't believe it in our bones to be true, then the real crisis of the college is not financial.

But do Yale and Wesleyan really have anything in common? What after all, does Schmidt's idealism have to do with us, such high-minded sentiment with us? Yet surely it cannot be only the rich and powerful whose obligation it is to invoke the ideal; if we believe that, then we forfeit at the outset any end worth having, and we may as well be quiet.

No such assumption, it is to be noted, prevents a small and impoverished church from thinking its mission every bit as holy as that animating its larger and wealthier sisters. Why need a small college? Wesleyan, in fact, ought to be twice-charged, as both a college and as a church-related college: not to lose its soul, though it does need money; and its soul inheres in its foundation and continued existence as a liberal-arts college.

Our difference with Yale is (or should be) of degree, but our difference with these other schools is of kind; thus the fundamental inappropriateness when we invoke them as models or for the sake of comparison.

Yale has a new president. So, indeed, does Wesleyan. Let us trust that in that coincidence all similarity does not end.

## Checkmate

By THE ARCHBISHOP

There I was just after moving all of my belongings into my room. I slipped on my flowered Jams, grabbed my economy-size bottle of Coppertone and glided out of my dorm in hopes of a swim in the "New" pool. As I approached the gym, the anticipation of catching rays by the "New" Wesleyan pool was agonizing.

Arriving at the area that had been designated for a "New" swimming pool, I lowered my cool Ray-Ban's to look in astonishment at???? No, not another mirage! This was the typically beautiful Wesleyan lawn I was gazing at as the fragrance of Coppertone filled the air. Where was the pool that had been talked about? Yes, I thought Dr. Carleton McKita had plans for a pool too! What about all of those survey cards I filled out with the "Swimming Pool" option distinctly checked.

I just wanted to go for a swim. Wouldn't Dr. McKita and his minions enjoy a swim once in a while. why? why? why!!!! It is not nice teasing the students about a pool. It is bad enough that a

student cannot go back to his or her dorm after classes and enjoy a cold beverage of his or her choice. I guess there won't be any swimming either.

We pay a decent amount of money to attend Wesleyan, so why can't we at least get a pool that could be enjoyed by all? What in the world is Student Life for anyway? It should be to provide for the students. I think Dr. McKita owes the Wesleyan community a sincere explanation about the swimming pool. How can students have faith in Student Life if the promises are not fulfilled?

I am not the only student who is steamy over the pool issue. I am told that in recruiting new students big possibilities for a pool were discussed. How would you feel if you had decided on Wesleyan over another school because there were big plans for a swimming pool? I would be slightly ticked off. I hate to say it, but this issue is not going to slip away without a very good explanation.

Oh! If your wondering what I did that disappointing afternoon. I staggered back to my dorm and took a long cold shower with my Jams on, of course.

## The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF  
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Editorial Board — Eva Bartley, Donald Martin, Matt McKown, Barry Nethercutt, Christopher Ostling, Tom Rivers, Linda Smith, Laura-Lee Spedding, Greg Williams.

Illustrator — David Gilliam

Photographers — Glenn Futrell, Steve Wiggins

*The Decree* is located in the Student Union, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Wesleyan College Station, Rocky Mount, NC 27801. Policy is determined by the Editorial Board of *The Decree*. Republication of any matter herein without the express consent of the Editorial Board is strictly forbidden. *The Decree* is composed and printed by *The Spring Hope Enterprise*.

Opinions published do not necessarily reflect those of North Carolina Wesleyan College.