

Opinions and Editorials

Select president with great care

(Editors note: In what is becoming something of a tradition, we humbly and fervidly present the following editorial.)

Dr. S. Bruce Petteway's speech on Founders Day informed the Wesleyan community that it must find a new President for 1986-87 school year. A President is responsible for the overall success and progress of a college. He/She must possess a sense of compassion that will enable him/her to understand the needs of everyone involved in the day-to-day activities of the institution.

He/She must recognize that students need to have a college that can offer them a quality education, while at the same time providing them with the security of knowing

that the college will not cease to exist. To do this, he/she must possess the ability to raise money and manage it.

He/She must provide the faculty with the security of knowing that there will be enough qualified co-workers to insure that they can construct and hold classes and office hours so as to provide the students with a quality education.

Most importantly, he/she must bring together all these needs of the college and articulate them to the board of trustees. He/She must be a link between the college on a day-to-day level and its board members. He/She must instill in the minds of the members of the board of trustees the idea that in order to build a better college, all of these things must be considered.

Play review

'Foreigner' sweet, funny

By MIKE BROWN

One of the interesting things about "The Foreigner" by playwright Larry Shue is that it's not produced more often. It's sweet, touching, and uproariously funny.

It's a treat for both actors and audience, both of whom are having a wonderful time with Fayetteville's Cape Fear Regional Theater production of this off Broadway classic.

"The Foreigner" is Charlie, a painfully shy Englishman still in love with his adulterous, terminally ill wife. To take his mind off his problems, his friend, Staff Sergeant "Froggy" LeSueur, has taken Charlie to a fishing lodge in rural Georgia.

To ensure his friend's privacy, Froggy spreads the word that Charlie is a foreigner who can't understand or speak English. Charlie hesitates, then goes along with the gag, and the fun begins.

Charlie is able to listen in on everyone the lodge proprietress, Betty Meeks; the hysterical debutante, Catherine; her half-witted brother, Ellard; Catherine's fiance, the Rev. David Lee; and an obnoxious Georgia cracker, Owen Musser.

Then, unexpected things begin to happen. Charlie begins playing an important part in everyone's lives and fulfilling their secret desires: Betty's need for a pet; Ellard's need for a friend; and Catherine's need for a confidante. He also tries to undo the mischief planned by Owen and the sinister minister.

Director Bo Thorp has staged this play as a breakneck farce, and many of the scenes explode with comic action. The climax, when Charlie and his friends face down the local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, is one of the funniest ever seen.

The only problem with such a crackling pace is that it tends to roll over some of the play's quieter moments. For instance, when Charlie finally receives news about his wife, his quick adjustment to the facts seemed hardly believable. These softer scenes can hardly breathe for all the laughing.

T. J. Carlson as Charlie does all he can, but on the night reviewed his performance was flat, and had no snap, crackle, or pop. It's OK for the character of Charlie to be a little on the lifeless side, but the actor has to make himself the center of attention. Although



We're better than we think

By DR. MARSHALL BROOKS

How good is Wesleyan? My hunch is that we are better than we think we are.

Last semester I was interviewed for an article which appeared in this paper on the subject of student dissatisfaction with the college. I was asked why I thought students transferred from Wesleyan to other colleges.

My question to the interviewer was when was she planning to do an article on why students stay? The point of my question was not to discount the fact that in the recent past, we have had a higher than average exodus of students but rather to suggest that if we are to get to the heart of the retention issue, we need to understand what keeps most of us here.

Something obviously does because the enrollment figures for the spring semester tell us so. Most colleges experience a decline of five to six percent in overall enrollment from the fall to the spring semester. Our decline in enrollment was only one percent.

A factor that appears to have contributed significantly to this is the increase in the retention rate of our day students, both resident and commuters. I might add that what makes these figures more significant is that over 30 day students were placed on academic suspension for the spring semester. This is about twice the usual number of suspensions for this time of year.

Quite honestly, the figures are a pleasant surprise. My surprise is reflective of how others have responded. My own experience with the people at Wesleyan, especially

since moving into the Dean's Office, is that our community has students, faculty, staff, and administrators who are talented, deeply committed and who care a great deal about Wesleyan.

Why if we expect to succeed and improve, are we surprised when we do? I believe that it may come down to a question of pride about our association with Wesleyan. For reasons that I neither fully know or pretend to understand, I believe that we have a institution-wide college. And yet, what is Wesleyan but us?

Pride is important to all of us and it centers largely on our ability to accomplish things that we value and to have those accomplishments acknowledged and appreciated by others. It is a matter of the chicken and the egg problem.

Our pride in Wesleyan is related to ability to take pride in our association with Wesleyan and vice versa. In order to have Wesleyan reflect that quality of the individuals who work and reside within its walls then we, as members of this community, must find ways to take pride in what we do and accomplish at this college. Our image of Wesleyan will grow only as our collective self-images about being here do.

The Decree

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