



# The Decree

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

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ALUMNI CELEBRATE HOMECOMING ON AWARD-WINNING FLOAT (NCWC PHOTO)

## Airband contest entertaining

By LISA STELL

The Homecoming Airband Contest last Friday was an unorganized but entertaining event.

The contest began 20 minutes late. The noisy crowd was entertained by Joannette Benjamin, known to Wesleyan as Ben Jammin'. Prompted by the crowd, she performed a "rap." The audience cheered her on by screaming and shouting.

While everyone was waiting for the technical problems to be corrected and the first group to come out, the raucous crowd had to be calmed down. Sybil Banford, the cafeteria manager and one of the airband judges, stood up and yelled for everyone to quite down.

She warned the audience that no more activities could be held there if they did not calm down. The audience responded by booing and jeering at her. Along with all the noise,

several students stood on top of the tables and chairs, much to the anger of Banford.

As the contest began, Debbie Ward took the job of emcee. She announced an abundance of "rap" songs, along with the Fat Boys and the Beach Boys, Meatloaf, and the Supremes. The \$100 first place prize went to Tamara Oates, who sang Jody Watley's "Don't You Want Me."

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## Intramurals to emphasize more sports

By MARGARET CULVER

Intramurals have begun this year with a new direction. The program will include various activities and is open to anyone on campus.

Pam Gourley, the resident director of North Hall, is in charge of the intramural program this year.

There are lots of activities already planned and many others still in the making. Recently, a double elimination tennis tournament has been set up and includes 17 participants. The volleyball and flag football competitions are also shaping up. In November, table tennis and basketball will take place as well as the Turkey Trot which is a fun run to be held near Thanksgiving.

Bowling and golf are being organized, and three sites are being considered to be used for sand volleyball which will occur in the spring.

Trips are being set up such as skiing and hiking. Gourley is still trying to find students to officiate, but she has not set a definite pay scale. She also would like the stu-

dents to practice sportsmanship and etiquette by just relaxing and enjoying the event.

The intramural program is available to everyone on the Wesleyan campus. Students, both resident and commuter, as well as faculty and staff are encouraged to participate. If entering a team sport, the entire team should be submitted although an individual may be placed on a team. Anyone who would like to participate needs only to sign up in the Student Life office or see Pam Gourley in North Hall.

Gourley is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her Masters from N.C. State University in Recreation Administration. She participated in intramurals as a Graduate Intramural Assistant and organized the officiating of events.

Gourley hopes the program at Wesleyan will grow and feels presently she is building a good foundation. Intramurals, in her opinion, are a service to students by which they may use their time as "leisure time is very valuable," she said.

## Cohen wants new student center

**Editor's Note:** *The Decree* is quite pleased to present its interview with the new Dean of Student Life, Steve Cohen. We encourage students to respond to Cohen's remarks, and we especially hope that the interview marks the beginning of an exchange between students and the Office of Student Life. Please address your written responses to *The Decree*, Student Union, NCWC.

**The Decree:** Summarize your professional background.

**Steve Cohen:** I'll put the educational and professional together so you'll get a better perspective. I did my undergraduate work in health and physical education at Brooklyn College in New York City and graduated there in June, 1975. I went to the Uni-

versity of Kentucky on a graduate assistantship in campus recreation. I finished with a masters degree in Recreation and Park Administration in June of 1977.

I took my first professional position which was Assistant Director of Campus Recreation at Nassau Community College, which is on Long Island in New York. I worked there for one year and in August, 1978, became the Director of Campus Recreation at Kean College in New Jersey, which is one of the state schools in New Jersey. I was there for seven years and in August, 1985, became Director of Campus Recreation at East Carolina University in Greenville. I worked there for two years and came here in August to be the Dean of Student Life.

That's basically my professional

background, so up until this point the majority of my professional experience has been in the area of campus recreation which is one area of Student Life. But it was always my goal to move up the ladder to be a Dean and then a Vice-President overseeing all the aspects of Student Life.

**Decree:** What do you perceive the role of Student Life to be at Wesleyan?

**Cohen:** Very, very critical. I think that all the research in higher education regarding recruiting and retention of students, especially the retention aspect, indicates that when students are involved in extracurricular activities outside the classrooms, whether they're involved in student government, intramural activities, athletics, things of that sort, they're more likely to stay in school. There-

fore I think Student Life is critical in terms of retaining students, making students feel good about their environment, and also I think it is critical in helping students form patterns of behavior and lifestyles that they will carry throughout their lives.

I think we need to offer well-rounded activities, programs to give people an opportunity to get involved in community service, to participate in student government, and things of that sort. So I think it is very critical, especially at a school like Wesleyan that is very small, things are very visible. It could be a positive opportunity for students to be involved, and I think we have a very influential role in cultivating that.

**Decree:** What do you perceive the role Student Life should play in a liberal arts education?

**Cohen:** Pretty much what I just outlined. I think that part of a liberal arts education is to give people a fundamental background and the capabilities to go out into the world and to venture into chosen areas of expertise. I think really we are helping to mold the patterns of behavior and students need to start finding out what kind of citizens they are going to be — are they going to be leaders, are they going to be followers, are they going to care about community service? — and I think going hand in hand with a liberal arts education is the understanding of oneself and what role one wants to play in society.

I always tell the people that work for me that your job is just part of

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