

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Students not taking advantage of college

Students at Wesleyan are constantly complaining that there is nothing to do around here. Well, this year there has been more opportunities to get involved than ever before — opportunities to be on the Student Activities Committee, to get involved with the Student Government Association, and particularly to get involved in intramurals. But once again, students have failed to get involved and these programs have suffered because of a lack of involvement.

The director of intramurals has done a super job in offering new and innovative ideas for intramurals. There have recently been opportunities to have a three-on-three basketball team, enter the Residence Hall Trivia Pursuit Contest (which only two residence halls participated in), and there is an upcoming Residence Hall Pictionary Tournament. It is understandable that not everyone wants to get involved in this type of intramural sport, but there are others. There is student/staff/fac-

ulty bowling and also a badminton tournament, another one of those competitions for which no one signed up.

How can the students at this college expect anyone to try and do things for them when they won't take advantage of the offerings? Do you want the intramural director and her staff to get out there and play for you, too? If these activities are not the ones you want to have, well go and tell someone; don't just sit there and complain. The efforts of the Student Life staff have been exhaustive this year to try and provide things for the students to do, but all the students do is say that Student Life does nothing for the students.

Student Life will probably be the first to admit they are not the best staff in the nation, but they do the best they can with what funds they have to work with. Hopefully, the Wesleyan community will make an effort to get involved, make suggestions, and quit griping. Help the staff to help you.

Symposium useful

Students, staff, and faculty at Wesleyan are indebted to Dr. David A. Jones and the Symposium Committee for the Spring Symposium that was put on here last week. The lectures, panel discussions, and movies made all who attended (which, by the way, weren't many) thankful for the Constitution of the United States and what it represents to us.

Wednesday and Thursday's Spring Symposium at Wesleyan was informative and educational for those who took part in it. Those who did not attend lost out on a valuable educational experience.

Again, thanks are in order to Dr. Jones and his committee for putting on such an event that has very timely importance to each and every one of us involved.



Are you smart about STD?

By JANICE STUMP, R.N.
Director of Health Services

It has been brought to my attention too many times this year that some students at Wesleyan College are not very smart. Of course, I don't mean academically, but in their sexual preferences.

We need to take a few minutes to reflect on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and their cause and prevention. Let's set a few things straight from the start.

1. STD can happen to anyone who is sexually active. It is not *who* you are, but what you *do* that determines if you are a risk for STD.

2. STD are not picked up from toilets, handshakes, door knobs, or just sitting in someone's seat after them. They are caused by "catching" a virus or bacteria from having sex with a person who is "carrying" that virus or bacteria.

3. Just being a really "nice" person or a "clean" person will not protect you from STD.

The most common STDs that are seen on college campuses are: gonorrhea, nonspecific urethritis, venereal warts, herpes, syphilis, pubic lice, trichomoniasis, and nonspecific vaginitis.

There are a total now of over 20 types of STD. If you are sexually active and do not protect yourself, you will be at risk of catching one or several of them.

I have often heard statements concerning students knowing their sexual partners' past history but later, after testing, these students are very surprised that their partners were not totally honest with them. If you decide to have sex with someone, you will technically be having sex with that person's total sexual history. Please take some time and give some thought before making that decision. You could be saving

your own life.

Just recently, I was meeting with some students and the subject of AIDS came up. One student stated, "Don't do anymore on AIDS. We're tired of it. Why do we have to hear about it all the time?"

I realize that we in the health professions, in particular, know what's going to happen to you if you get AIDS. We know how much you will suffer. We know there will be little we can do to help you endure the pain and wasting away. We are frightened by the thoughts of dealing with huge amounts of AIDS victims with very little in the way of medications and treatments to help us. Finally, we know *you* are our only help right now. The public will *have* to take it upon themselves to make the right kind of decisions concerning their

sexual practices.

If you have a STD, then you are living a lifestyle that puts you at risk of AIDS. It is that simple. You should take a good look at your sexual practices and decide how to make the proper changes to take you out of that risky lifestyle.

The information is out there to aid you in making these choices. Stop by the Student Health Centre, or Public Health Department, and pick up some information. Learn about high-risk activities, condoms, "safe sex," abstinence, and the relationship of drugs and alcohol to STD. When you know the facts, you can make the choice that's best for you. Don't allow anyone else to make that choice. Become informed, take time to think, and then act upon what you know and feel is right for your life.

Boredom is self-induced

By DON RHODES

Wesleyan campus residents continually complain that there is nothing for them to do. However, there was something to pass the time on Feb. 12, and few people took advantage of the opportunity.

The event to which I am referring, of course, was the Valentine's Dinner and Dance held at the Carleton House. For \$8, a person got \$11.10 worth of food, and a dance was also included.

Cost should not have been a factor in a student's decision not to attend. The dress was black-tie optional, meaning that a male did not have to spend \$50 for a tuxedo rental, and a female did not have to spend more than that for a dress.

Worse than the fact that students did not attend, however, is that several students rented a hotel room to throw their own party. The fact that

they rented a hotel room proves that cost was not a factor in the students' inattendance. These students simply did not want to go to the formal because it was school-sponsored, and they believed that it would not be fun.

Granted, students are attending some school-sponsored functions: the video dances continue to be a success, and the movies held in Doc's and the T.V. Room are gaining popularity. Unfortunately, this spattering of student interest only occurs once in a blue moon.

It is impossible to guess why students refuse to attend school-sponsored functions. Is it due to student apathy, or an assumption that events sponsored by the school will necessarily be a bad time? To be sure, if students assume that a school function will be no fun, it will not be.

Perhaps students should just once attend an event. They might be surprised.