



# The Decree

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1989



DOROTHY SPRUILL REDFORD GREETES STUDENTS AFTER TALK. (PHOTO BY K.A.S.)

## Reading kicks off Symposium

By TERRIE ROBERTS

Allan Gurganus started out the 1989 symposium by reading an excerpt from his book, *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, and giving the N.C. Wesleyan Press a thousand dollar contribution. "I'm giving the contribution to say thank-you to the press and Terry Smith for their help."

Gurganus' ties with the college began years ago. He had taken some classes before he was "wisked away to the Navy." This was the first time he had read this excerpt to a group and the first time a reading had been held in

the Student Activities Center.

Daisy Thorp introduced Gurganus as a "faithful friend" and added that she had "found a treasure, a collected and treasured friend." Gurganus then began talking about his past and added that he was the son and nephew of preachers as he began reading about a lady's experience as a Sunday school teacher.

The reading started off with the woman saying that her "brightness in learning amounted to cutting the right number of pies and telling a blue bird from a bluejay." But she began teaching a group of nine to 11 year olds lessons from the *Bible* with a

type of puppetry theater using acorns for puppets.

She began her first lesson by announcing "it's showtime, little Christians — come and get it." But after her first lesson she had a bad feeling that it was too sinful because it was fun. She then realized it was a way of following God's word and continued with her storytelling.

"The kids love the undullness of the visual arts," she said at one point as others snubbed her puppetry or called it a flea circus. She continued on for many years until a preacher ridiculed her and she stormed out, not to teach again.

## I-95 stranded take shelter at Wesleyan

By GREGORY STREHMEL

On Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m., I-95, 64, and bypass 301 were closed because of excess snow on the roads.

"The student activities center at North Carolina Wesleyan College has been designated as an emergency shelter from the I-95, 64, and bypass 301," campus minister Dr. Carleton McKita said.

"The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Rocky Mount, and Coopers school in Nash County were also opened as designated shelters," director of Red Cross Rosalie Lemieux said.

The Student Activities Center was immediately opened at 6 p.m. when the first people started coming in. At 6:30, the Student Activities Center was overcrowded.

"We counted around 600 people on campus," Johnny Francis, assistant food manager said.

At 11 p.m., 350 people were in the Student Activities Center, 100 people were in the Student

Union building, and 150 people were in the gym.

"We set up tables and chairs for the people in the student activities center, and we provided them with coffee, hot chocolate, juice, milk, hotdogs, and sandwiches," McKita said.

"The Marriott Food System provided the people with drinks and food," volunteer helper Eric Schreiber said.

"We then opened the cafeteria at 6:30 because of excess people in the student activities center," Lemieux said.

"I came to Wesleyan College because all the hotels in Rocky Mount were already full at 7:30," Ken Steward, a 41 year old man from Berwick, Pa. said.

"I really can't imagine how much work and effort these people are putting in for us," a 38 year old woman from Richmond, Va. said.

"The service that these people are providing is terrific," a 25 year old carpenter on his way to Tampa, Fl. said. "I would like to know if we could leave a dona-

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## College doubles United Way contribution

The close of 1988 found many area businesses and organizations presenting special envelopes to the Rocky Mount Area United Way. Each was honoring a commitment to support this organization which responds to human service needs in the area. North Carolina Wesleyan College is an annual participant in the Rocky Mount Area United Way campaign.

This year, faculty, staff and

students supported the campaign with their pledges, their ideas, their creativity and their time. A combination of these four resulted in an extremely successful campaign. The pledges totalled \$7,171.83, which more than doubled last year's effort.

At the beginning of the on-campus campaign, President Leslie H. Garner, Jr. said, "As we approach that time each year when we traditionally acknowl-

edge our own good fortune and reaffirm our responsibility to the community, we look forward to the chance to continue our support of this worthy organization. It was 25 years ago this year that the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us from a Birmingham jail that injustice anywhere is a threat to freedom everywhere. The United Way directs our voluntary contributions to relieve social economic oppression so

that opportunity might be enhanced in this community."

Dr. Garner served as the chairman of the Needs Assessment Committee for the Area United Way.

Staff member Jane Batts and Vice-President Ray Kirkland were instrumental in the organization and success of the drive. Addressing the faculty and staff, Ray Kirkland said, "Thanks to

you, it has been a very successful campaign."

Wesleyan students participated in the campaign as well. To support the United Way, faculty and staff members served soft drinks and tea to students for tips on Thursday, Dec. 8 during lunch. The novice waiters and waitresses-included: Dean Marshall Brooks, Dr. Garner,

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