

The Decree

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Cheating widespread at U.S. colleges

As many as nine out of 10 students have plagiarized a paper sometime during their college careers.

Miami University of Ohio Prof. Jerold Hale and two colleagues surveyed 234 students, and found that 91.2 percent of the students admitted to having committed at least one of four academically dishonest practices in connection with written assignments.

Of those, 74.2 percent failed

to cite a reference for paraphrased or quoted material, 44.2 percent passed off another student's work for their own, 40.8 percent failed to note a word-for-word quote as a direct quotation, and 39.9 percent used misleading references to hide plagiarism.

The results echo a survey released by Harvard Universities Institute for Educational Management in early March that found that 30 percent of the

nation's college students have cheated on term papers or exams.

In addition, 43 percent of 5,000 professors told the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching that today's undergraduates are more willing than their predecessors to cheat to get good grades.

When asked, some Wesleyan students admitted that they had dishonestly used documented information. They also asked to remain nameless.

"Oh, yeah I've bought a paper from ECU before," said one North Carolina Wesleyan student. The paper was purchased for \$20 and used at Wesleyan, where the paper received a "B," instead of the original grade of "C" at ECU.

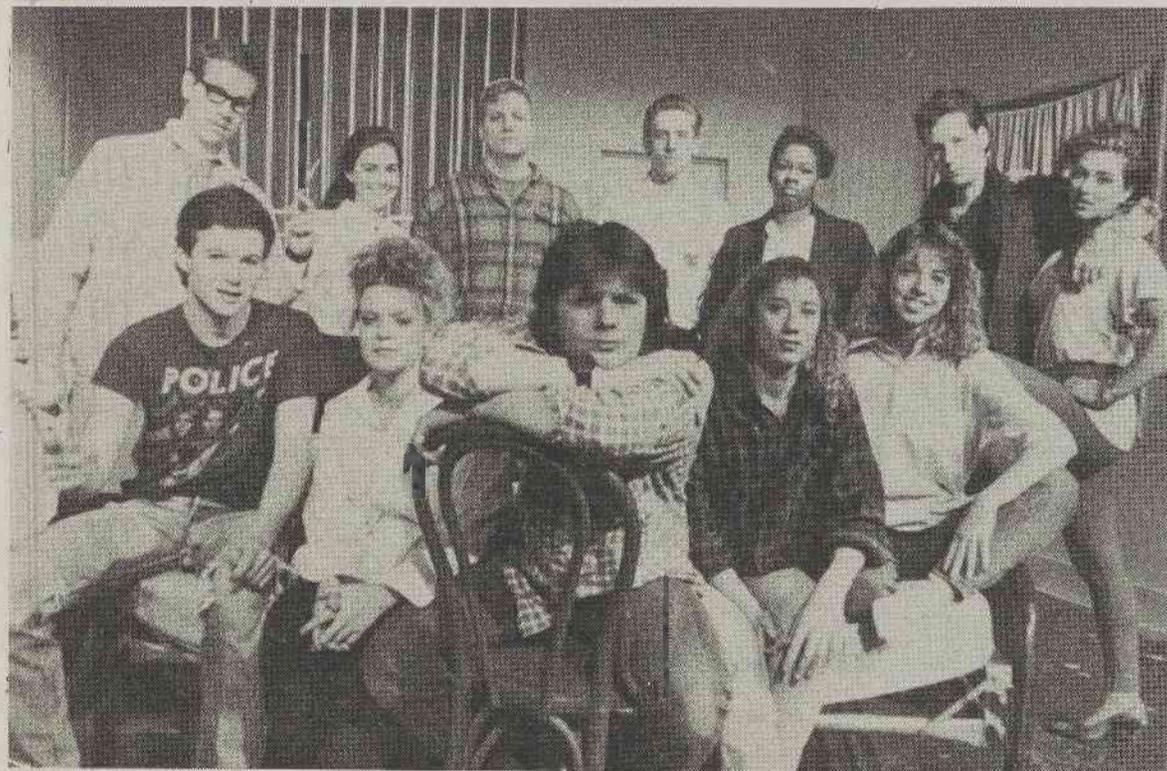
Dr. Steve Ferebee said that he was able to tell when students are guilty of plagiarism, but found that it was hard to prove, because the only way to prove plagiarism would be to find the exact text.

The root of the problem, Miami's Hale says, is the intense pressure placed upon students to achieve academically.

But not all students say that justifies cheating.

"If the overall goal is to succeed in college, you'd think students wouldn't cheat," said Paige Foster, a student at the University of Kentucky.

"Pressure to get good grades is no excuse to cheat," said Bonnie Wiese of Keene State College.



GETTING OUT — The cast of the recent Wesleyan Players Production, "Getting Out," directed by Vaughn Schütz, gave their performance last Saturday. This drama was the second production of the year. (Photo by Kevin Davis.)

HSA officers go to Memphis to attend regional conference

The Honor Student Association executive officers went to Memphis, Tenn., on March 28 to participate in the Southern Regional Honors Conference.

Representing the Wesleyan Honor Association were: Christine Adams, President; Michael Walsh, Vice-President; John Hearne, Secretary, Melissa Joplin, Treasurer, and the Honor Director, Dr. Steve Ferebee. The conference had participants from

all across the southern region. Schools from North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, Tennessee, and Louisiana were all present.

Many of the schools gave presentations, including a presentation by Wesleyan on the Ethics of Capital Punishment. This presentation was well attended and quite successful. The presentation given by Wesleyan exam-

ined basic arguments for and against the death penalty. After a short introduction the room was broken up into six groups, and each group was given a case. The groups were to weigh the arguments for and against the death penalty, and act as if they were a jury and decide whether or not the person in each case deserved the death penalty.

These groups interacted very
(Continued on Back Page)

Wesleyan begins early registration to end long lines

By SYLVIA BROWN

Early registration at NCWC April 2-11 is expected to shorten registration lines in August. "The purpose of Early Registration is to eliminate that long line on registration day for as many students as possible" said Cliff Sullivan, the Registrar of NCWC.

"If a student completes early registration procedures and takes care of financial obligations by the appropriate date they will receive a copy of their classes schedule, either in the mail or when they complete their financial aid obligations here on campus," said Sullivan.

Early registration procedures let students plan their schedule form with their faculty advisor if submitted to the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m. on April 11.

"We have been thinking about changing the registration process a long time. We really began to seriously work on it I guess about a year and a half ago," said Belinda Faulkner, Business Officer Manager.

Sullivan said "I have been working on this new process over two years. On just putting information together, stealing ideas from other colleges and present-

ing them to the Vice President and Dean."

"A lot of departments are involved in this new process, such as Admissions, Financial Aid, Data Processing, Student Life, Registration, The Business Office, Adult Degree Program, and just about every office here on campus. This is why it has taken so long to organize," said Faulkner.

Senior Vanessa Roberts said "I think it's about time that NCWC did something about those ridiculous registration lines. I just wish they had updated registration years ago."

"I'm happy to hear that now we will not have to wait in line to register. As an adult student it really means a lot not having to rush over from work to register for one or two classes which I had to do for the old registration process," said Duane Godwin.

NCWC has now started a registration system that some feel should have been in use since the beginning of the 80's. Surrounding schools such as Atlantic Christina College, East Carolina University, and North Carolina State University have been using early registration for at least the ten years.