

Students must prove they are adults

Dear Editor:

There has been much ado lately about the state of student life at North Carolina Wesleyan College. There have been many changes over the summer, and the faculty and staff are doing everything possible to make Wesleyan a better place to go to school. When students are allowed to complain anonymously, the statements cannot be taken as fact. They must only be taken as conjecture.

Recently, however, four other students and myself had the opportunity to speak on an intelligent level with five members of the Board of Trustees. The members belong to the Education and

Student Life committees. We were given the opportunity to address the problems we have seen around campus, and to give suggestions for what further improvements could be made.

We were given free reign to discuss any topic which we felt was important to the students of this college. Problems and suggestions about academics, parties, educational programs, and all-around student life issues were discussed. Dr. Holton, Rev. Hunter, Dr. Winstead, Mrs. Yarborough, and Rev. Redmond were not spared any detail of what has been going on around campus, and they were very receptive to any suggestion we made.

Alcohol policy is dangerous

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year, Student Life tightly enforced previous alcohol rules and added new ones, such as limits on the amount of alcohol one could possess. These actions were, at best, foolishly conceived, as they seem to ignore the way they would impact on the student body.

Student Life seemed to believe that by making it exceptionally difficult to drink in the dorms, students would stop drinking. This was not the case as students simply stopped drinking in the dorms and began to have bonfires by the lake. Additionally, there have been a number of parties held off campus, in some cases as far as 20 miles away, where alcohol was consumed and students then drove home.

From information revealed to me, representatives of this college met with the caretaker of the lake in an effort to end the parties being held there. I do not know the outcome of this meeting, but if students are no longer allowed to party by the lake, they will have only one choice: to drive to some other location to consume alcohol.

The officials of this college must realize that students are going to drink; it is only a matter of where. They must understand that we have been brought up in a society which views the consumption of alcohol as a mark of maturity and a desirable practice. Until these attitudes are changed, no policy decision or rule will alter student drinking habits significantly.

It seems far safer for students to stagger across the practice soccer field in order to get to their dorm rooms than to drive. If one

examines the statistics regarding traffic accidents and fatalities, there can be no doubt that drinking and driving greatly increases the chance of being involved in an accident. By giving the students of this college only one location where they can drink, off campus, Student Life is directly encouraging the practice of drinking and driving.

Two years ago, when two students were severely injured in a car accident, the impact was felt by the whole campus community. What will the results be when students start dying?

This college must come to grips with this situation and deal with it as soon as possible. Although I realize that the officials in Student Life had the best intentions when implementing these policies, they must realize "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." Hopefully, some compromise can be made in regards to drinking on campus before the body count starts to climb.

Thomas misused symbols to win

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wanted to question him and those who supported him. He implied that to be against him was to be racist and in favor of lynching.

Leaving aside that he said he wouldn't use race as an issue, he made an illogical connection between the KKK's lynching of blacks and the Senate's asking that Thomas answer sexual harassment charges brought by a

Letters to the Editor

One student brought up a subject near and dear to the hearts of most resident students — the bonfires. The committee members heard him out, and also listened to what the other students had to say about the issue. No actual decision was made, and no action was guaranteed, but the problem was addressed to the right people.

If there are to be any changes made on this campus, these are the people who need to hear the suggestions. It seemed to me that they were willing to consider anything that the students felt was important enough to warrant discussion. Instead of disquieted grumbling over the state of student life on this campus, students must stand up and be heard. If you feel what you have to say is important, you must be willing to put your name on your statements.

These five students did not cover everything that needed to be covered; they were only a small sample of the Wesleyan population. They did, however, go about making the changes in a positive way. By speaking directly to the people who help accomplish changes at Wesleyan, the students showed that they were well on their way to becoming adults.

To whine and complain about the campus not being "fun" any more does not, to me, signify an initiation into adulthood. We are on campus to learn how to be functioning adults in today's society. We are not on campus to have destructive "fun." In our society, that kind of "fun" is called vandalism.

The most important thing which came out in the meeting with the Trustees was the love for the campus. Students who love Wesleyan and are eager to gain an education must be courageous enough to make constructive criticism to the right people. We must be willing to work with the

administrators to ensure that the campus survives and prospers. We must not simply bury the College under piles of muck written about specific staff members whom students do not like.

There is a right way and a wrong way of handling every situation. The right way is to be up front, forward, and adult about problems. The wrong way is to sound like a bunch of babies who are not getting their way.

The catch phrase which I have been hearing around campus lately is, "If they are going to treat us like babies, then that is the way we are going to act." I would say that it is necessary for us to prove to them that they are capable of acting like adults before they will treat us as such.

My parents always taught me that it was necessary for me to gain their trust before it would be given to me, and that, it seems to me, is what the students on this campus must do if they wish to be treated like the adults they claim to be.

Christy Lin Skojec

Science program receives \$100,000

North Carolina Wesleyan college has received a \$100,000 grant from The Glaxo Foundation to supplement faculty and equipment in the chemistry and biology departments.

"Receiving such a generous grant in support of our science program means that we will not only be able to improve the biology and chemistry classes and laboratory facilities for our own students, but we also will be able to improve the quality of science education at many different levels in the eastern North Carolina community," said Wesleyan President Leslie H. Garner, Jr.

"We see our responsibility in

education extending further than our own classrooms and into the public schools of this region, where we can play a critical role in providing scientific experiences for youngsters who would otherwise not have his opportunity," he said.

Over the past 10 years, the science faculty at Wesleyan has established a tradition of going out of its own classrooms to share its expertise with public schools in the region. As part of the College's community outreach effort, the faculty regularly offers workshops, lectures, and summer science enrichment activities on campus that involve area teachers

and students.

Every year the College also celebrates National Chemistry Week as both biology and chemistry departments hold lectures, workshops, and open demonstrations throughout the Rocky Mount community. The science faculty is committed to improving science education in eastern North Carolina, both in Wesleyan's classroom and in public schools and industry.

The grant from The Glaxo Foundation was made to support that commitment, said Charles A. Sanders, M.D., CEO of Glaxo, Inc. and the foundation's chairman.

black woman. But the connection is forever made. Television solidified its symbolism.

Partly because of his misuse of symbolism, I can't make myself believe he is much more than an employee of an administration which used the image of a black criminal to frighten white voters and of a political party which uses whites' fears of minority quotas to dismantle affirmative action and in whose name an ex-KKK

grand dragon is very close to being elected the governor of Louisiana.

We will never know whether or not Thomas could have reached the Court because of his record and without using coercion to scare southern Democrats any more than we will know whether or not he lied about Professor Hill's allegations.

What we do know about him is that he has forever linked him-

self to one of our nation's most degrading symbols as well as one of our most degrading methodologies. I think he and his fellow Republicans did so for short-sighted and short-term political gains.

This winter as I await the crocuses, I sincerely hope that Thomas the Supreme Court Justice will use his position of authority and power to unite rather than to divide.