

The Decree

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North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, N.C.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1993

Graduation scheduled for Saturday

North Carolina Wesleyan College's annual graduation exercises will be held this Saturday on the college front lawn.

The day will begin with a complimentary continental breakfast for graduates and parents scheduled from 8-10 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Candidates for graduation will assemble to

line up for the procession at 9 a.m. at the SAC.

The North Carolina Wesleyan music department will present a concert at 9:45 a.m. before the ceremony, and the procession of graduates will get under way at 10:30 a.m.

No guest speaker was invited for the ceremony. Remarks will be given by Senior Class

President David O'Neill.

On Friday night, at 7 p.m. in the chapel, a baccalaureate service will be held for graduates.

Graduation will cap a busy week for Wesleyan students. Classes ended last week and final exams begin today, continuing through Thursday.



NEWLY FORMED GOSPEL CHOIR PERFORMS EASTER MESSAGE BEFORE SPRING.

New Gospel Choir enjoys harmonious start as group

By KIMBERLY CURSEEN

On Oct. 23, the newly formed Gospel Choir met in the chapel with 12 members. The Choir has grown since then, and has become a student organization.

The Choir, directed by its founder Chynna Bonner, debuted in the cafeteria. The debut concert was entitled "Thank you Lord" in celebration of Thanksgiving.

The choir has attended and performed in several Rocky Mount churches since its founding. The choir was also featured in this year's Contemporary Arts Festival. Bonner received the Religious Life Award for efforts in starting and maintaining the choir,

and the Choir received the Student Organization of the Year Award. The Choir now maintains a membership of 18 people.

Rev. Kirk Oldham, one of the Choir's advisors, has great respect and support for the Choir and the efforts of Bonner. He said, "When she presented the idea, I was skeptical that she (Bonner) could get the students to do it....she has done it, and it is a great addition to the religious life of this campus. It gives the students another medium to express their faith through."

About Bonner Oldham said, "She is not doing this for herself; she is doing this to profess her faith. She has worked very hard for the Choir. She has made it

clear that this is just not an Afro-American organization, but that it is open to all people."

When she came to college, Bonner decided that she wanted to sing Gospel music. She sang in high school and toured with the Yale Gospel Choir for a year. When she learned about Wesleyan's extracurricular activities, Bonner was surprised to discover that the school did not have a Choir. Before entering Wesleyan, she proposed the idea to Oldham about forming a Gospel Choir.

Bonner stresses that she wants the Choir to be a source of spiritual upliftment. She says, "We are singing for God." She said

(Continued on Back Page)

Pell grants face more cutbacks

By DEBORAH MITCHELL

Major changes in the federal Pell Grant program may cost hundreds of thousands of students their grants, forcing them to leave college or shoulder more debt.

"This is going to affect students already in the worst situations," said Laurent Ross, a research associate with the American Council on Education. "Many of these students will have to borrow more money or drop out of school."

Some of the nation's neediest students, already hurt by a Pell Grant cut earlier this year, now face further reductions as a result of revisions to federal student financial aid programs. About 26 percent, or 1.2 million students, who receive Pell Grant awards will lose them entirely or have the grants cut by more than \$100, Ross said. The changes may also affect some Wesleyan students, many of whom also receive Pell Grants.

Although last year's changes in the Higher Education Act affect all financial assistance programs, the new laws, which are in effect for the 1993-94 academic year, come down hardest on certain groups of undergraduate students who receive Pell Grants.

"It's a disaster," Ross said. "Students who used to get the Pell Grants are finding the grants reduced drastically or cut entirely — and these are the students you want to get the grants. These are the poorest of the poor."

The Pell Grant program was designed to help financially needy undergraduate students meet the costs of their education by providing them with direct financial assistance. The awards are calculated using a formula that determines how much income students and their families can afford to contribute to education.

Ross said the problem with the new laws can be traced to changes in that needs-analysis formula. The students most at risk of losing their grants or having them reduced fall into two categories: students who are single and independent (they don't rely on their parents or other family members for income) and students who are dependent on their families' income and work part-time.

"Those students are hurt by the new formula," said Lenthon Clark, director of the Financial Aid Office at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. "Any time you have changes in meth-

(Continued on Back Page)