

Planned changes positive for NCWC

By TOMMY ALLEN

What is it that makes people so unsusceptible to change? Whether it is a slight modification or a major transformation does not seem to matter — generally, people do not like change. Why?

One could simply contribute the dislike of change to “the fear of the unknown,” but when one is well informed of the change, can it still be a “fear of the unknown”?

One could also contribute the dislike of change to exclusion from the formation of the change, but can one successfully rationalize this when the lack of involvement was by their own choosing?

‘Philadelphia’ has tremendous impact

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sonal worth. To make a movie about homosexuality itself would be confining that particular message to a very small number of the population.

I felt that in the total picture, the movie was very tastefully done. There were no real homosexual acts, which I feel would have turned me and many of the other heterosexual public off. Demme and Nyswander were wise in making an important movie accessible to both the heterosexual and homosexual public.

Chip Sullivan

Library at Wesleyan better than described

Dear Editor:

As Director of the Library I would cheerfully accept twice the budget and twice as many books and journals as we have at the moment. Any and all advocacy in this area is warmly welcomed, and my thanks go to Matt Hartwiger for the column in the February *Decree*, in which he advocated more and better library resources.

I'm worried, however, that after reading his letter everyone might start walking to ECU before you check us out here.

Even admitting the very real limitations of the collection, I am willing to bet that using the resources that exist in the Pearsall Library right now, we can give any student at NCWC more in-

formation on most course-related subjects than she/he could read in a semester. The problem is that most people simply don't know the *Magic Formula For Finding Information*.

One could say that their dislike of change stems from a sense of instability or loss of security. I actually may be on to something with this one. The changes that I am specifically speaking of are the ones that were recently introduced to the Wesleyan Community by President Garner and Academy Dean Bussom.

As SGA President, I am privy to a lot of things that other committees or boards of North Carolina Wesleyan College are privy to and have therefore heard the above mentioned changes about six or seven times now. I can honestly say that I get more and more enthusiastic about these changes the more that I hear them. Mainly because a lot of these

formation on most course-related subjects than she/he could read in a semester. The problem is that most people simply don't know the *Magic Formula For Finding Information*.

The *Magic Formula* involves gazing deep into the eyes of a librarian and reciting the incantation, “I need information on (pick your subject).” Then if she/he doesn't give you enough, you have to repeat the incantation, inserting the word “more” between the words “need” and “information.”

Curiously enough, the *Magic Formula* only works if you use it two or three weeks before your paper is due.

Al LaRose

Kafka fits Harding

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who hates the government cheers her on. Somewhere on a deserted ice rink, a modestly dressed minority teenager continues working for her chance at endorsements. Commercial break. (Dan Quayle for potato“e” chips.)

As we take a bathroom break (the Olympics themselves), I pause to marvel at how right Kafka had it. Television must sell itself, and in order to do so it has now established a laboratory where “babies” are manufactured, lives invented, and episodes of

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changes will benefit the students, but also because I believe these changes will benefit the college as a whole.

Unfortunately, there seem to be those who still have concerns and rightly so. After all, it is a change. However, the one thing that concerns me had been the nature of these worries. If I were to express the majority of the concerns for the proposed changes in one phrase it would be “Well, what's in it for me” or “What am I getting (or not getting) out of it.” It seems the “meism” that many of you have hears me speak of has resurfaced.

I believe the one thing that everyone needs to realize is the North Carolina Wesleyan College of today is not, nor never will be, the North Carolina Wesleyan College it was in the year 1960.

NCWC has come a long way, and it has the potential to go much, much further. So, once again I ask, why are people so unsusceptible to change and want to hold Wesleyan back?

Besides being unsusceptible to change, it seems we see and hear what we want to (this could contribute to the fact that Wesleyan is quite a rumor mill and this contributes to what I am about to say). People (pardon the southern expression) “make such a fuss over nothing.”

From the reactions of some people you'd think that Dr. Garner and Dr. Bussom have just changed the college's name to “Wesleyan Technical College” and announced the end of any

liberal arts program including those jobs within the program. You would also think that they have made the announcement that everyone should stop lecturing and teach their courses through active learning. However, they have not. After all, this is impossible — not all classes can be taught without lecturing.

As a student, I must admit, that, I have learned a lot more from the classes that were taught through active learning than the ones that were lectures. Lectures, for the most part, are boring. Ask any student and remember: “The student comes first.” The college is dumping the phrase and hopefully not the concept.

You know, with this being a liberal arts college, it's no wonder that the Wesleyan Community thinks a little too much and reads a little too much into things. The paranoia that surrounds Wesleyan at times like these is enough to make me feel as if this the McCarthy era!

There are no “Anti-Wesleyanists” trying to overthrow the liberal arts program! Please remember that Dr. Garner and Dr. Bussom are not omnipotent. They cannot make such changes without the majority consent of the Wesleyan Community.

I spoke with a good friend one evening about this situation and she made me do quite a bit of thinking. I now believe that I understand why “Wesleyan-little” is running around yelling “The liberal arts program is falling! The liberal arts program is falling!” While there is no one out to abolish the liberal arts program, there was discussion on canceling majors that were no longer in demand by students.

It just so happens that the lib-

eral arts are not in a very high demand where the majority of degree-seeking Wesleyan students are concerned. Thus the link between fading out majors and abolishing the liberal arts program. Wesleyan may not be the same as it was in 1960, but it is still Wesleyan — I have no doubts that the liberal arts program will be staying.

The other issue my friend was instrumental in bringing to my attention was the fact that while some of the majors may not be in demand like they once were, there are still students in these majors — students who came here and stayed here for that major (but will not if we do not offer them their classes), and who want to graduate sometime this decade under that major.

I strongly believe that this institution has the responsibility of graduating these students under their chosen majors and within a respectable amount of time. This means offering the courses they need whether there are only two or three students in that class. If a student needs that class, then it should not be canceled.

In business terms (which I do not get offended at if the college is referred to this way, and neither should others), the college has a contract with these students to help them complete the major offered to them when they entered and within four years as stated. This is just simple business ethics.

Well, I imagine that I have said a mouthful and if nothing else comes of this column, then at least it will help *The Decree* fill some space. Words of wisdom from a student: Do not jump to conclusions and keep this in mind: self-fulfilling prophecy.

Top ten reasons to go to Wal-Mart at 2 a.m.

10. The great video games.
9. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping.
8. The inexpensive and delicious snake bar.
7. Dodging the people re-stocking the selves.
6. Having fun making security guards nervous.
5. No visitation policy at Wal-Mart.
4. Avoid the rush on 25¢ Sam's Cola.
3. Only place open at 2 a.m. in Rocky Mount.
2. Setting free hamsters in pet department.
1. Never know what staff members you'll run into.