

The Decree

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White inaugurated



PRESIDENT WHITE THANKS CHAIRMAN LEON DUNN BEFORE GIVING ADDRESS. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TELEGRAM.)

Fourth president assumes office after weeklong series of events

By TEQUALA MOORE

Prior to Jan. 23, students, faculty, and staff dashed here and there preparing for the upcoming Presidential Inauguration.

Dr. John Benson White was sworn in as North Carolina Wesleyan's fourth President on Thursday, Jan. 25, but many events took place prior to the formal swearing in.

These events gave faculty, students, staff, and the community a better insight into the current conditions at Wesleyan and for White's plans for Wesleyan's future.

The first event, on Jan. 23, was the Inaugural Symposium with the theme: "What Should Liberal Education Be at Wesleyan?"

After the welcome given by Leon A. Dunn, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees, Dr. White introduced the keynote speaker, Robert E. Calvert of DePauw University.

Although many students enjoyed the symposium, some still questioned why a member of Wesleyan was not chosen to speak about the liberal education of the college.

One student, who asked not to be named, said the symposium "was very semi-politically correct. The topic went around the important issues at the college. They talked about what liberal education should be at Wesleyan, not what it is or how we planned to obtain it."

Other students, who weren't so much into the symposium itself, found everything enjoyable because there was something to do on campus.

On Jan. 24, at 9 a.m., two more

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Panel looks at 'clarity and charity'

By TEQUALA MOORE

The Symposium discussion panel, "Clarity and Charity: Life of the Mind and Spirit," consisted of a mixture of staff, students, and faculty.

Directed by Dr. David Jones, professor of history, the panel's participants were Jones, Resident Director Sigrid Bonner, Professor of Religion Dr. Fred Grissom, Professor of Religion and Chaplain Rev. Kirk Oldham, Professor Emeritus Dr. Rexford Tucker, and fourth-year student Kelly Wilson.

Each panelist gave an approxi-

mately five-minute speech on the topic, expressing different points of view. Jones presided over the panel.

Oldham said that with respect to the relationship of the life of the mind with life of the spirit, "one benefits from the other and one depends on the other." He also posed the question to the audiences of students, faculty, staff, and guests, "How can we test our faith without being able to learn the questions to ask?"

Wilson identified herself as a fourth-year non-traditional student. She spoke about what she believes it means to be educated,

noting, "We can't be truly educated if we have no morals." She also spoke of Wesleyan's reputation in the community as being a "party school," and how it is important to have a good "Christian standing."

Bonner anchored her comments around the North Carolina Wesleyan College motto, "Wisdom and Courage... through Christian... Foundation," with a focus on the state of the student body.

"There is a widespread disregard for moral values," Bonner said. "Students do not take responsibility for their own actions." But she acknowledged that

not all students fall in this category and that there are several student leaders. She also cautioned students to show respect for themselves.

Grissom said, "Study of religion has a special place in a church-related college." He also spoke about another aspect of the life of the spirit as a "witnessing to the power of work and knowledge ... a teacher who demonstrates care for a student is witnessing to the life of the spirit."

Tucker had a multi-faceted speech, noting, "Education at

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