

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Inauguration week showed off students

The inauguration is finally over and Dr. White is officially now the fourth President of North Carolina Wesleyan College. It was not the brigade of trustees that marched into the Minges Auditorium in the new Dunn Fine Arts Center or the symposiums organized by our beloved faculty or even Dr. White's amazing speech that will be remembered most.

What will be remembered most about the Inauguration Week are the many students that attended each event and listened intently; the students that asked thought-provoking questions and spoke well on the various panels; the students that organized the ushers and other volunteers; the students that organized the inaugural ball and danced until midnight on the stage in the auditorium; and the brilliant speech given by the leader of the student body that received many accolades and heart felt applause.

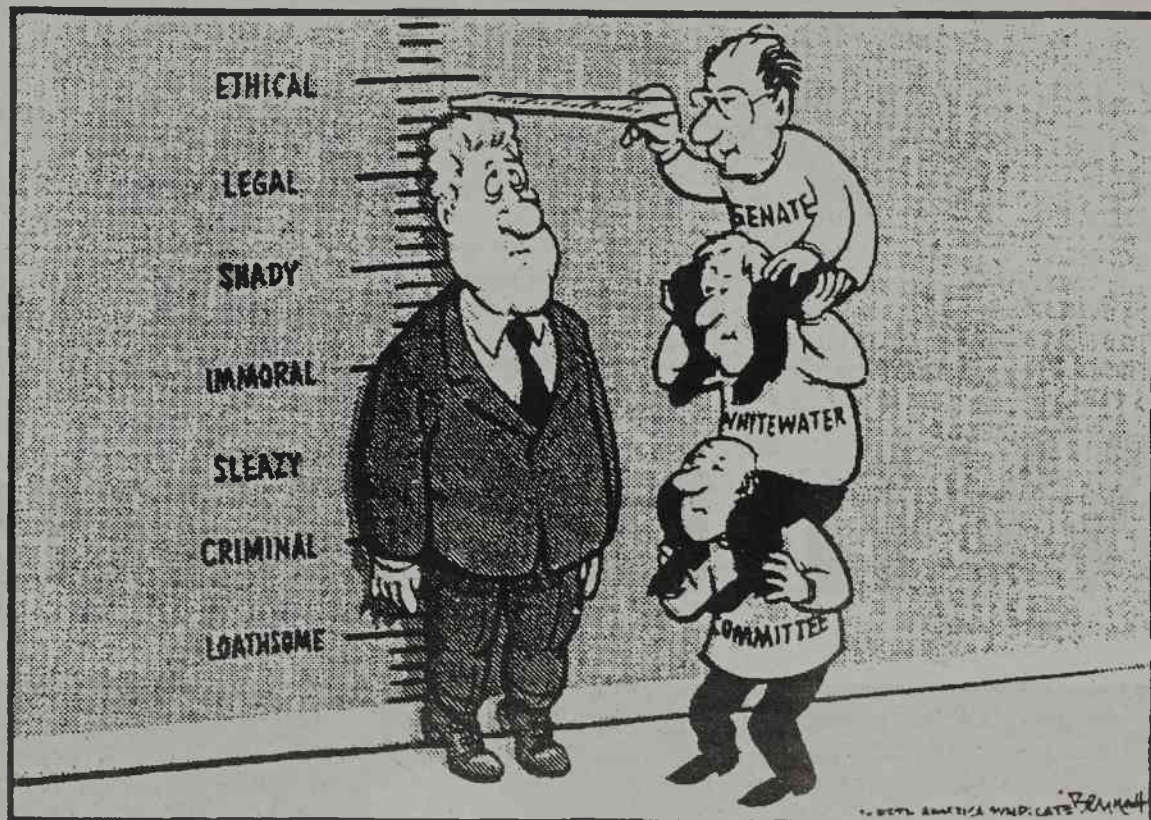
It was the school spirit that shined through an abyss of apathy. It was a spark of hope that has not been felt at Wesleyan for a long time — a hope that things here might just be okay, that Wesleyan is as an institution is worth something and we are important part of academia and the city.

For the whole week Wesleyan were treated as a favorite child of the commu-

nity, and other members of academic institutions. We were legitimized by our neighboring institutions, and the student body felt it and responded in rare form. It was not just a matter of students attending for the sake of attending or for the sake of grades, and although some of that happened, many of the students wanted to be there. Some of the students were won over by the excitement of the events and it showed.

For this week the students at North Carolina Wesleyan College rose above the criticisms that are often leveled against them. They were not the lazy, jaded, apathetic group of human beings they are always told they are. For this week they were active, enthusiastic, and hopeful. They were picturesque college students. The institution in a time of need called to its students and its students answered honorably. Wesleyan should be proud of itself. Because what is Wesleyan, after all, but the students?

Let us never forget this experience and let us never doubt ourselves, our students, and our institution. We are capable of many wonderful things here; we just have to hold on to that spark — the spark of pride in who we are and what we have and will accomplish. Wesleyan, you are worth. Let us always be a favorite child.



Taking stock helpful

Week was time for reflection

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

One of my classes and I have been reading James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, so the self-reflective quality of President White's Inauguration Week seems not only appropriate but also normal and necessary.

To be educated means to know both who I am and how I best can keep becoming who I am. At various times during the Symposium and ceremonial events, I was saddened and defiant and optimistic about our own collective becoming.

President's Week included the college's family: local supporters, alumni, former faculty and presidents, and trustees as well as current students, faculty, administrators, and staff. I know, having co-chaired the Symposium

Dr. Steve Muses

with Dr. Jones, that each group is important. As I noted at one point, this kind of collective might help our government officials.

Some of the students began by defining what the "liberal" in liberal arts and liberal education means. The word is so abused that we do need to define our terms in a debate about who North Carolina Wesleyan College should be if it is going to survive the changes we are experiencing.

For educational debate purposes, we need look no further than the *Oxford English Dictionary*: "Originally, the distinctive

epithet of those 'arts' or 'sciences' ... that were considered 'worthy of a free man;' opposed to *servile* or *mechanical*."

How to reach a state of freedom? How indeed to recognize mechanistic servitude? How to live our lives, not as islands unto ourselves but as men and women able to love ourselves, understand our relations to others, and meet our responsibilities both to ourselves and to others?

"To sleep, perchance to dream. Ay, there's the rub," wavers Hamlet, trying to decide whether or not to continue living.

"April is the cruelest month," agrees T.S. Elliot's speaker in *The Waste Land*, terrified that he will have to pursue the responsibilities of our common humanity.

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Ball brought college together

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Campus Activity Board I find myself asking how can I get more people to attend the events that we bring to this campus.

We get a nice small crowd to attend the events that we provide and they seem to love it. They then go back and tell their friends about it and I hear from people that they regret not attending.

Well, I guess that the best crowd is a small crowd as long as they enjoy themselves. This was case at the Inaugural Ball that was held in recognition of Dr. White's

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becoming the fourth President of North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Students, teachers, and staff alike enjoyed themselves at the dance that we held on the stage of the Minges Auditorium. Students were seen dancing with the President's wife and staff members, but the most memorable

dance of the evening was Kevin Corbett and Dr. Jones slow dancing.

The DJ played things to keep both the students and the staff happy.

I think that the whole evening was a great success and I feel that we should have more dances like that so the professors and the staff can have an enjoyable time with the students outside of the classroom.

I sincerely hope that this type of an event happens not just when we get a new President.

Greg Purcell