

The Decree

VOL. 11, NO. 11

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1996

College offering new dental plan to faculty, staff

By MOLLY McCLUSKEY

North Carolina Wesleyan College recently began offering a dental plan for all faculty and staff, and Darrel Whitley, Director of Human Resources at Wesleyan, is pleased with the new plan.

"What we were trying to do," Whitley explained, "is increase our benefits that we offer our employees, to be more competitive with other colleges."

Whitley commented that a dental plan was something he immediately noticed was lacking upon his arrival to the college three years ago.

"Dealing with new employees, it was one of the first questions asked," he said.

Guardian Insurance, the company which Wesleyan has signed with, offered the same benefits as other dental plans.

"All dental plans are structured the same and the benefits identical. What we were looking at was the best price and we shopped around. (Guardian Insurance) provided the most reasonable price," Whitley explained.

"I'm excited," commented Dr. White's secretary, Jennifer Bullock. "I've had dental plans in the past and I'm glad we have it." When asked about faculty and staff's reactions, she said, "I've

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VOLUNTEER PAINTERS — Patty Wilding (left) and Dawn Kozlowkoski participate in "North Hall Day" painting project.

North Hall residents join to paint lobby

By JESSICA BROWN

Paint fumes have fouled the air in North Hall lately as about 25 out of the 75 or so residents go together on Saturday, March 23, to paint the lobby.

"We had an average of about five people painting at one time throughout the day," said North Hall's resident director, Marc Gaaney.

Earlier in the semester, the Hall council had voted to have a "North Hall Day" to paint the lobby, the new exercise room, and to plant some bushes in front of the building.

Residents Alan Garber and Patty Wilding were nominated to take care of the necessities. Director of Housing Cheryl Mc-

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College faces tighter budget for next year

By TEAQUILA MOORE

The preliminary budget for the 1996-97 school year is at an even \$10 million, approximately \$800,000 short of this school year's budget.

President John B. White said in an interview that N.C. Wesleyan's revenues are down and that there are many possibilities on the table as to how to increase the school's revenues.

White proposes three options: 1) recruit more students; 2) make the residence halls and campus more attractive; and 3) increase the school's gift income. Along with these options, he also mentioned the possibility of a salary decrease for faculty and staff and possibly cuts in faculty and staff.

In response, Belinda Faulkner, chief financial officer, said, "You should know that these options were mentioned as possibilities that the institution may be facing in coming to terms with a tough budget year. The options were discussed in open meetings with faculty and staff."

"In the actual budget process and discussions, no final decisions

have been reached regarding salary and position decreases," she said. "We are still in the preliminary budget phase and everything is still open for discussion, including all the ways that the institution's expenditures may be reduced or revenue may be enhanced."

She said that "every year we face similar challenges in the preliminary phases of budget preparation. There is no question about it, the 1997-97 budget is going to be tough."

"Above all, service to students is foremost in our discussions," she said, "and there has been a policy of openness and honesty about this and other subjects."

White believes that one way to increase the school's revenue is by making the residence halls and campus more attractive. Although most options are just possibilities, Faulkner said the Board of Trustees has passed a proposal "which will benefit the entire campus and carries the college forward in implementing the WesPlan."

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SGA elections underway

By KAROLYN BRAUN

The Vice President of the Student Government Association, senior John Radzicki, had new hope going into this year's SGA elections, which took place this past Thursday and today.

Out of the 25 applications for government offices, 15 have been taken according to Radzicki. A presidential debate

was scheduled on Wednesday, which gave an opportunity for the campus to hear the views of the candidates.

In the past years the elections have been less than successful. Students were not very responsive and for most positions there were only one candidate running.

Radzicki, who is in charge of the election this year, sent e-mail and voice mail to all

student on campus. For the off-campus residents there have been signs placed around campus telling about the elections.

In former years, according to Radzicki, the only effort made for attracting student to elections was placing application in the SGA office. However his placing the applications in various strategic spots on campus proved more successful.



JOHN RADZICKI

Divisional meetings scheduled Monday

A series of student/faculty divisional meetings will be held on Monday from 11 a.m. to noon, sponsored by each of the five academic divisions for students majoring in or interested in majoring in their areas.

The meeting will give students important information concerning their major, to meet faculty outside of the classroom, and to receive information concerning careers, graduate schools, internships, cooperative education opportunities, major and degree requirements, and pre-registrations.