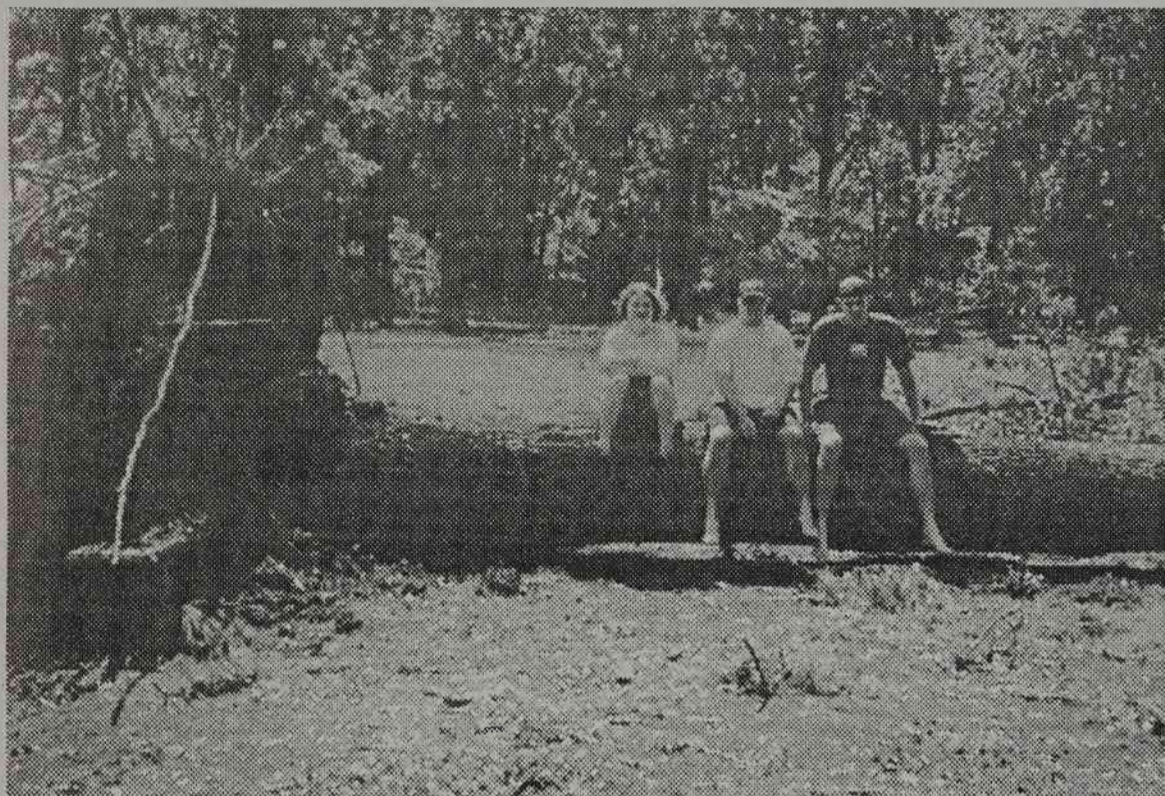


The Decree

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GONE WITH THE WIND — Wesleyan students (from left) Erin Durbin, R.J. Forano, and Allen Davis sit on a fallen tree in front of the campus, courtesy of Hurricane Fran. (Photo by Karolyn Braun.)

Hurricane Fran blows through Wesleyan campus during night

By BENNY SAINT ROMAIN

Hurricane Fran did not spare North Carolina Wesleyan College when it hit the Rocky Mount area Sept. 5, leading to a long night for both students and staff and hours of campus cleanup afterwards.

Earlier that day there were several reports of school closings and students were concerned about their safety. The residence life

staff had met for an emergency procedure meeting to prepare for this event.

Cheryl McKenzie and Pam Gourley reviewed emergency procedures with the RD's and left several voice mails informing the community of what to expect from the storm. Security was also notified of possible problems that could occur during Fran and they were ready for the challenge.

As the rain and wind began to

pick up, each residence hall began to settle in for the storm. Many students peered out the windows and stood outside and watched as the storm approached.

As the hurricane intensified, everyone entered their halls and braced themselves for the storm.

The RD on duty that night, Marc Gainey, said that each hall had several ways of coping with

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Forum hosts husband-wife political duo

By MOLLY McCLUSKEY

The Dunn Center was the proud host Sept. 12 of speeches by political consultants Mary Matalin and James Carville.

The joint appearance was the first of two events in a political forum sponsored by the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce as a fundraiser for its education division. The second event will be a November speech by former first lady Barbara Bush.

Matalin, a Republican and a northerner, was a top campaign official in the Bush campaign in 1992, while her husband, James Carville, a Democrat and a southerner, was manager of the Clinton campaign.

The Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce sold 1,100 tickets of the 1,200 seats in Minges Auditorium and donated 100 tickets to the college. The tickets sold for \$100 apiece and the auditorium was almost filled to capacity. Had all the donated tickets been used by Wesleyan students and faculty, all seats would have been taken.

After being introduced, Mary Matalin took the podium with the comment that she and Hillary

Clinton have something in common.

"We both took the best part of the south, its men ... It's the only thing Hillary and I have in common," she said. She went on to share that she and her husband were considered the Amy Fisher and Joey Buttafuoco of politics. Matalin's comments were both witty and sarcastic. Several times she poked fun at her husband, whom she said "looks like he eats small children."

Matalin stressed the importance of forming one's own opinions about candidates, rather than listening to the media. She informed those in attendance that the reason for the political image as a whole to have suffered in the past several years is that the media has focused less on positive coverage than it used to.

The coverage of the Kennedy campaign, she explained, was simply reporters sharing what had happened. However, now all the reporters give commentary. The candidates themselves only received six percent of the collective primary coverage. The rest consisted of reporters telling how

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Convocation opens Wesleyan's 37th year

By MOLLY McCLUSKEY

The opening Convocation on Sept. 9 marked the beginning of the 37th academic year at North Carolina Wesleyan College.

SGA President Scott Cuvillo encouraged the student body to "get involved. Don't think there's nothing to do, or that it rains too much. Don't be so quick to make up your mind."

Dr. Mary Ruth Cox,

Wesleyan's new dean and vice-president of academic affairs, outlined in her speech the true meaning of liberal education. Although the concept was one students heard many times during the inauguration activities in January, she offered a definition never mentioned during those times. Using a literal Greek translation, Cox said liberal arts is "work befitting a free person."

She further told the students

that it is their responsibility to "know enough, understand enough, question enough, listen enough to be responsible enough to remain free." She encouraged students to "give yourself wholeheartedly."

The main speaker was U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton of North Carolina's First Congressional District. Clayton, the first African American woman ever to represent North Carolina, said that

young people inspire her, because she is looking into the faces of the next generation.

Clayton reminded students that "late nights at the library are for good reason. Wesleyan has kept you here so that it may set you free. You are here because you are preparing to be somewhere else.

"Real education is being able to know what you do and don't know," she said. "It was Socrates

who said, 'I know that I know nothing.'"

She encouraged students to vote, reminding them that if they complain about injustice and then do nothing, they themselves are as unjust as the offenders.

"Fight for what you believe. Whether or not you win — winning is not important; it's what you stand for that's important," she said. "If there is no struggle, there is no freedom."