

The Decree

"Wesleyan's Student Voice Since 1984"

VOL. 13, NO. 1

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1997



TEAM SPIRIT — Joyce Bobbit, back in the cafeteria kitchen, says it was the Marriott's Food Service team spirit that enabled the staff to overcome problems caused by storm damage.

Storm damage leaves havoc inside cafeteria

By ANNE BASULTO

It is not unusual for this area of North Carolina to be hit by torrential rainstorms during the late summer; however, on Aug. 20 Rocky Mount was hit by a raging rainstorm that caused numerous problems.

The Wesleyan campus was particularly hard hit. The roof of

the cafeteria suffered enormous damage. The roof was undergoing repairs at the time and part of the temporary covering was blown away. Huge sections of the remaining roof capsized. The interior of the building was flooded with rainwater and extensively damaged by falling debris.

It was immediately clear that
(Continued on Back Page)

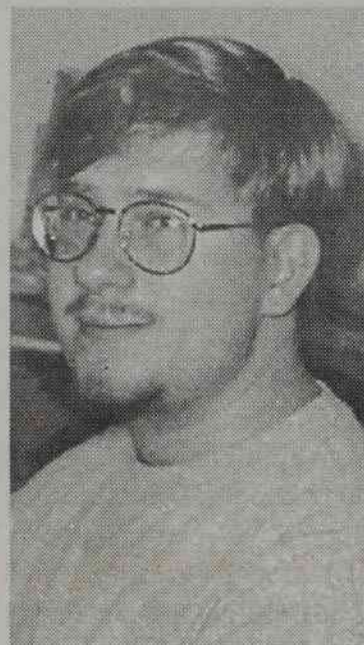
'Dissenter' yearbook raises some eyebrows

By ANNE BASULTO

Wesleyan's yearbook, *The Dissenter*, is published every year to provide students, faculty, and staff with a record of the year's events and activities. Memories are captured in pictures and in articles which become part of the college's history. Unfortunately, the 1997 issue which was released at the beginning of this semester was discovered to have several blemishes.

Apparently a graduating staff writer, a member of the Sigma Pi Fraternity, was assigned to write a mission statement setting out the aims and objectives of the organization. It is believed that a possible dispute with fraternity brothers caused the writer to make unfavorable changes to the document before the yearbook was sent for printing. The original statement and the statement published in the yearbook were not identical.

Members of the fraternity and other students were outraged and offended by the statement published. The *Dissenter* staff and advisor were dismayed at their attitudes. The angry students went immediately to Dr. John White, Wesleyan's president, and com-



MARSHALL MURRAY, editor of the 1997 *Dissenter* yearbook, blames lack of student communications for this year's problems with publication.

plained about the problem.

The yearbooks were recalled and returned to the printers, Herff-Jones. In each yearbook the published mission statement was covered by a sticker which showed the original statement. The cost for the change was \$100.

Then another staff member

came forward and offered information which suggested that personal revenge was the reason for the mission statement being changed.

It seemed that *The Dissenter* staff had noticed — but not questioned — the content of the changed statement. Marshall Murray, editor, explained, "If we would have known that this was going to offend anyone we would have changed it."

"The page that represented the organization did not seem offensive at first because much of the information was inside information that only certain individuals would understand," Murray said, adding, "The school needs to come together to prevent this kind of problem from occurring. Organizations, athletic teams, the staff, and students should communicate better both with us and with each other."

What will *The Dissenter* staff do to prevent this happening again? According to Murray, "Next time we will be more careful to ensure this won't happen again. We need the help of students."

In the future, all copy submitted to *The Dissenter* will be reviewed before going to print.

College binge drinking on rise

By ROCHELLE ROSEN

"Three Wise Men" has been implicated in the death of one Louisiana State University student and the hospitalization of three others.

In this case "Three Wise Men" is a popular bar drink that combines Bicardi 151 rum, Jagermeister liqueur, and Crown Royal whiskey usually consumed in the form of a "shot."

This recipe could spell disaster for anyone, but for the 20-year-old LSU student it spelled death.

Benjamin Dayries Wynne is

estimated to have consumed 24 drinks in one sitting. His blood alcohol content was 0.55588 — six times above the legal limit to drive. Wynne was said to have been celebrating fraternity pledge night with 12 others at a bar near the LSU campus. After an investigation, hazing was said not to have played a part.

As colleges across the country welcome new freshman, the concern over binge drinking heightens. Recent studies by national organizations have shown good reason to be concerned.

Recent studies show that binge

drinking is down across the country but in one group — college students. Binge drinking is defined as drinking five or more drinks in one sitting.

One study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that 34 percent of college students admit to binge drinking in the past 30 days. The CDC study showed that the epidemic of drinking too much nowadays presents a lot more problems than a hangover the next morning. The potential side effects of binge drinking include date rape, HIV

(Continued on Back Page)



Inside

Turn to pages 4-5 to take a look at improvements being made to Wesleyan College's quality of life.