

Student demonstration was outstanding

Dear Editor:

Outstanding!! That is the best way to characterize what took place on Nov. 22 here at Wesleyan. Outstanding because it brought together many different areas of the college. Outstanding because it wasn't loud or out of control. Outstanding because it was the biggest gathering of students for an event I have seen in a while. And finally, Outstanding because it showed that a lot of students really do care about this school.

It was great to see so many students not only attend, but so many take advantage of the opportunity to discuss what was on their mind. It was equally great to have so many of the faculty, staff, and administration attend to see what students did have to say. It was also wonderful to see as one speaker put it, "so much energy" being displayed in the form of student activism.

However, now comes the time to see what kind of commitment the students are really prepared to make to get these questions answered and issues addressed. It is now time to roll up the sleeves and to get the ole' hands dirty. It is time to do the work. And so, I ask, who is willing to step up and get to work?

Thankfully, Tony (Morrone) and Katrina (Lewis) did the rough part because through their efforts, the cover was taken off the pile of questions and issues students have here at Wesleyan. However, this pile will not go away simply by saying to the administration, "these are our concerns, fix them." And I don't think that is what Tony and Katrina had in mind when they did this.

However, given that they are but two of many, many students (as well as being Seniors, which means they won't be here next year), who else out there is willing to get involved and do the dirty work?

Just as Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe pointed out in his remarks, there are avenues available currently for students to address their concerns and work on fixing the problems. In some areas, the avenues haven't been utilized in the past. Others have been only partially utilized. Specific examples would be efforts that have been made to get student input on such topics as programming in the Dunn Center, programming on campus, food service, and student government.

Jan Zarr has attempted a variety of methods seeking student input on programming at the

Dunn Center and gotten nowhere. Kevin Hughes tried frequently to get more student input last year on programming through Campus Activities Board as well as other methods, to no avail. Todd Meiners and Dr. Bledsoe sought student input on food service issues last year with the food service committee and were met with lukewarm response.

Finally, SGA has in the last two years made numerous attempts to get student input on things with little success. Last year's SGA President Justin Renville tried a number of times to get students involved in areas ranging from suggesting programming to seeking greater student involvement in evaluating the SGA Constitution. This year's President, Abdula Foula, and the rest of the Executive Team have tried mightily to get more students involved in SGA and the SGA Senate, with very little response. And these are only a handful of examples.

Now, don't misunderstand what's being said here. What took place on that Monday was definitely good. But it will only be great if there is follow through and that follow through will require work. Students should hold responsible parties accountable for that which is their responsibility (and this was reiterated by several different administration members at the rally). Questions should be asked when they arise. Information that doesn't sound credible should be researched until the information is verified or until the correct information is found.

But to accomplish these tasks requires commitment and effort, and not just from two students. To achieve the kind of results that are the goal of the Proposal for a Better Wesleyan, students are going to have to be willing to make the time to meet discuss, and follow-up with those responsible parties. And keep on them! Not just chat once about an issue and expect it fixed, but show there is determination to accomplish whatever the particular goal is.

For example, as Wesleyan President John White pointed out in one of his emails that weekend prior to the rally, there are three students elected as Board of Trustees members. So then how is it that the students did not hear anything about the Charter School Deal until Nov. 15, three weeks after the Board of Trustees meeting? In fairness to the author of that email, Kyle Guechler, student-elected board member from

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last year, that was the first correspondence that I have seen in two and a half years here at Wesleyan from any of the student-elected board members.

However, the point here is that before the students can go demanding more representation on the Board of Trustees, those resources that are available to students, in this case the three board seats, must be better utilized. Therefore, students must start holding those three elected representatives more accountable for their actions. It must be asked of them how is it that students often don't know what is going on with the Board of Trustees.

But doing that will not simply be a matter of "Hey, you have to do a better job." It is going to require talking to them, addressing the concern, knowing what's going on with the Board of Trustees, and following up to ensure they are keeping students in-

formed. And that is just one of the issues.

There is now a lot of work to be done. But it shouldn't just be up to two students to get it done. Tony and Katrina aren't the only concerned ones here either; the rally indicated that. But thanks to their efforts, the administration (and others) here at Wesleyan are now listening with both ears. Therefore, now is the time to get to work. And it will be work. It will require time, effort, and commitment.

It will require more than just Tony and Katrina (and other members of the class of 2000) because when graduation is finished in May, this will not be finished. It will, with the help of others, be a work in progress. And more importantly, it will be there to show that Tony, Katrina, and others did not act on a whim.

So, in the end this all boils down to the same question I asked at the beginning: who is willing to step up and get to work? Who is going to help?

For me, my answer lies in the fact that I am rolling up my sleeves. What about you?

J. Michael Hoppe

Finally, students coming together

Dear Editor:

WOW! How can I resist not getting in on this wonderful exchange of Emailing!

I feel it is about time that the student body has rallied behind something. In the past, it has been very difficult to get a large portion of the students to gather for anything. I am very aware of this because as a Resident Assistant, I tried to get students to participate in activities for two years, but it just didn't happen.

Finally it appears that the student body is coming together. It is unfortunate that the President was not in attendance, but it really doesn't matter. With the help of Tony Morrone and KaTrina Lewis, Monday the 22nd was an interesting "appointment" with the administrators.

It appears that Wesleyan's problems have gone on for too long and finally will be addressed by the heart and soul of the school, the *students!!*

"Long Live the Revolution!"

David Capobianco

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