

The Decree 2002-2003

"of, by, and for the Wesleyan community"

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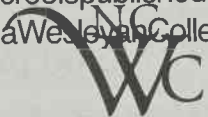
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Meetings- Decree office, behind the piano in Hartness

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Wesleyan Students Attend Journalism Seminar in Florida

By: Phillip Jones

On Wednesday, October 30, two students and one faculty adviser from *The Decree* set out for Orlando, Florida, for a four-day journalism convention. The American Collegiate Press (ACP) and College Media Advisors (CMA) run this annual event.

The Decree, *The Dissenter*, and the Professional Development Committee paid for our venture through a joint effort.

The two students attending were Kim Noble, Editor-in-Chief of *The Decree*; and Phillip Jones, Assistant Editor-in-Chief of *The Decree*, and staff member of *The Dissenter*. The Faculty Advisor that attended was Dr. Kaye Campbell, Assistant



Professor of English/Journalism and Adviser of *The Decree*.

The participants were required to attend four, one-hour seminars each day. Many of the seminars ranged from yearbook planning to college radio, newspaper, and TV broadcasting.

I attended twelve seminars, which included two for yearbook, and ten for the newspaper. Laura Widmer of Northwest Missouri State University conducted the first seminar I attended.

Widmer spoke about new ideas and giving

--See Phillip p. 8

SUBMISSIONS

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to "Editor of *The Decree*" and emailed to both the Editor-in-Chief and the Copy Editor at the above addresses; the subject lines should include the word *Decree* and a 2-3-word short title. The student staff of *The Decree* generally publish all letters to the editor but reserve the right to edit for libel, obscenity, or other inflammatory rhetoric.

We encourage all submissions—creative writing (poetry, short fiction, literary essays); press releases; schedules of upcoming events; photographs; line art. Written work should be submitted in the body of email. Photographs/graphics/notices should be submitted as 200 dpi JPG files or left on the Faculty Adviser's door. PC 182.

All submission of any sort must include the author's name and full contact information.

The Decree is published in-house and printed by J&S Printing in Alabama. It is distributed to student mailboxes and the cafeteria, grill, library, switchboard, dorms, door of PC 182, and all ADP sites.

Editorials

EIC's Corner

A Simple Note from Me to You

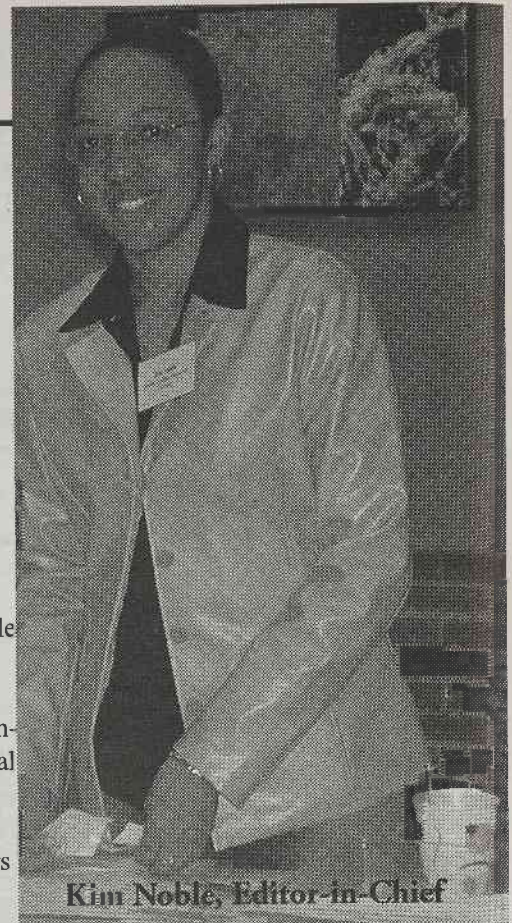
I will not write about the entire American Collegiate Press conference that took place in Florida because I think that my Assistant Editor has written enough about it already. Overall I think that the conference was beneficial and allowed me to rethink my position as Editor-in-Chief.

I would also like to thank and introduce the new members of the Decree Newspaper. On Thursday, November 7, 2002, The Newspaper staff held its second interest meeting. There we shared wonderful ideas over pizza and soda.

The new members are Jenn Hall (Creative writing), Joe Davis (Movie reviews and Creative writing), Jenny Yi (Sports and Creative Writing), Nicole King (Events, Creative Writing, Movie and Music Reviews), and Andressa Williams (Special Events and Photography).

These members are excited about working for the newspaper and I am very glad they are on my staff.

We look forward to writing for you



Kim Noble, Editor-in-Chief

in the Spring Semester. Don't forget to begin studying for your exams. They begin December 6, 2002. Best of Luck.

Campaign Techniques In America

After weeks of television advertisements in which her campaign called Erskine Bowles a liar, a crook, a Wall Street lackey - everything, in fact, except "Mr. Bowles," Elizabeth Dole claimed to have been elected to "bring North Carolinians together."

President Bush spent weeks riding in Air Force One (at your expense) all over the country bashing Democrats as the devil's spawn, as unpatriotic despots only wanting to tax and spend and spend. But the day after the election, suddenly he cannot wait to work "with the Democrats in a bipartisan spirit."

I say to hell with bipartisan. I say get real, get partisan, and don't apologize for living in a country with at least the pretense of two parties.

The Democrats lost Senate and House seats because they were afraid to be Democrats and because at least some Republicans said something - even if it was "LOOK AT ME, I'M JUST LIKE THE PRESIDENT." If the Democrats' national leadership had articulated an intelligent response to President Bush's tax cut-for-the-rich plans, his war-

for-oil plans, and hijacking of individual civil rights as well as the number of major issues he has no plan for, they might have at least held their ground.

Speaking of lackeys, I will be surprised if Dole ever shows any independence. I hope she does surprise me, but she scurried behind the president's ideas so quickly and so completely



that she looked like a cardboard cut-out that the White House moved from political rally to political rally. "Look at my website," she kept saying. Her problem is that I did look. "I wanna go back to Washington." That's her message. Well, so long, Mrs. Dole.

We often hear that Americans have the best political system that humans have ever organized. The president claims that he has a mandate? A mandate from barely a half of the 25% of the eligible voters? Why aren't we questioning this

portrayal of the election?

The American electorate is woefully ignorant and plans to stay that way. Whether it is the tens of thousands who recently protested the next installment of Bush vs. Hussein or the church leaders who distribute get-out-the-vote "score cards" that urge congregations to vote for the anti-abortion candidates, only the few radicals at the edges know much at all. The rest of us allow them to vote into office people we then notice don't seem worthy.

So what are we to do if we are regular working Americans with family, job, church, and social obligations that leave few minutes during the week to learn about the issues and the candidates? How can we educate ourselves?

First of all, we can be educable. We need to learn how to learn. We need an educational system (including this college) that doesn't graduate anyone who doesn't know how to learn. Next, we have to quit believing everything should be easy and quick. It takes time to learn about simple issues,

-- See Muses p. 3