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THE DECREE

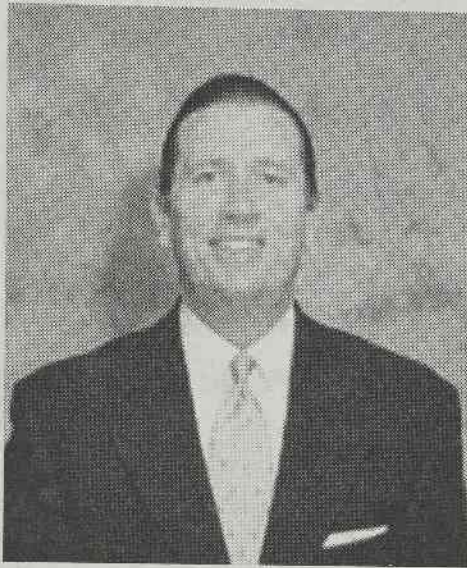


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WESLEYAN FOOTBALL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR THOMPSON ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS



NCWC A/D John Thompson

By Ron Fitzwater

In our continuing effort to find answers to the concerns surrounding the addition of football to Wesleyan's athletic program, I recently sat down with College President Ian Newbould and Athletic Director John Thompson. In this issue we present the interview with Coach Thomson to get the viewpoint of the man in charge of Wesleyan athletics.

RF - How is the football program progressing so far?

JT - It's going. It's a daily process and there's not a day that goes by that I don't deal with some aspect of building the program, the selection of uniforms or staff. It's going well.

RF - Are we looking at having the team staffed and having a full roster of players by the time practice is due to start?

JT - I'm pretty excited by the prospects we have for our staff. I think we're close to meeting our target, all of the coaches that we are looking at to staff the team (of course, we have had Coach Ginn on board for awhile now) are currently involved in programs, so the timing for their arrival will be based on their seasons.

RF - What about recruiting players?

JT - It's early and now is the time. The bulk of the recruiting is to begin now.

Coach Ginn has begun that process., which is ongoing and includes high school visits and on campus visits. Certainly we're going to get some kids in May or June that we don't know about but the bulk of the team we'll get over the next few months.

RF - What about transfer students? I spoke with Coach Ginn over the summer about the lack of leadership from upperclassmen, are we hearing from any perspective transfers?

JT - We're getting some but I'm probably not equipped right now to tell you specifics. I know we've had some transfer prospects on campus already, to include some 20 to 25 campus visits and probably the vast majority of those are transfers.

RF - From your stand point is there adequate fund raising going on right now to get the team on the field?

JT - Well that's going to be an ongoing process. I think we are certainly making good headway. Fundraising for football is something that I am certainly involved in. It is being spearheaded by the President and Phil Ellmore, the Vice President of development, and they have their hands on that on a daily basis but all of the starting cost for every knee pad, helmet, blocking dummy, sled, goal post, everything is being raised through those efforts. The money for these items is not coming out of the operating budget of the college.

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DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT 2003

By Ron Fitzwater

As most of us move into finals and look forward to a well deserved break until the spring term begins, many of our fellow students leave behind NC Wesleyan to enter the working world or to go on to graduate school. For those students who have never attended a commencement exercise, the following guidelines are presented to help you understand and enjoy the exercise better;

The December 2003 Commencement Exercises will be held on Saturday December 13, at 1:30 p.m. in Minges Auditorium located in the Dunn Center of the Performing Arts. The ceremony will present over 150 graduates receiving their degrees, the culmination of years of hard work. The graduates

will wear the traditional academic costume consisting of cap, gown, hood, tassel, and black shoes. The cap, an essential part of the academic costume will be worn throughout the academic exercise, except during the prayer and the singing of the Alma Mater. In particular, the cap will not be removed at any point during the conferring of degrees.

Graduates will first enter at the south entrance of the building where those earning them will receive Honor cords which will be worn during the ceremony.

Graduation is a joyous and special occasion. It is a time for celebration and merriment. However it should be remembered that Commencement is a formal College function. All in

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WorldSmart Leadership Program Accepts Applications; Announces Scholarship Program

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This month in Wesleyan History we look back at December, 1979 and the many issues that were facing our students.

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JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!!

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Through Irish Eyes An international student's view of America

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Ramone Spears Named USA South Rookie of the Week

Page 8

Parting Shot Boy, do we feel silly!!

APOLOGY DUE

Carla Fitzwater - Copy Editor

We at the The Decree would like to extend our deepest apologies to North Carolina Wesleyan College President Ian Newbould for our oversight in allowing the misspelling of his last name to go to print in Decree Vol.XIXno.3.

Please be assured that I meant no disrespect and, as the Copy Editor, I have learned a valuable lesson in the ongoing process of putting out a quality newspaper.