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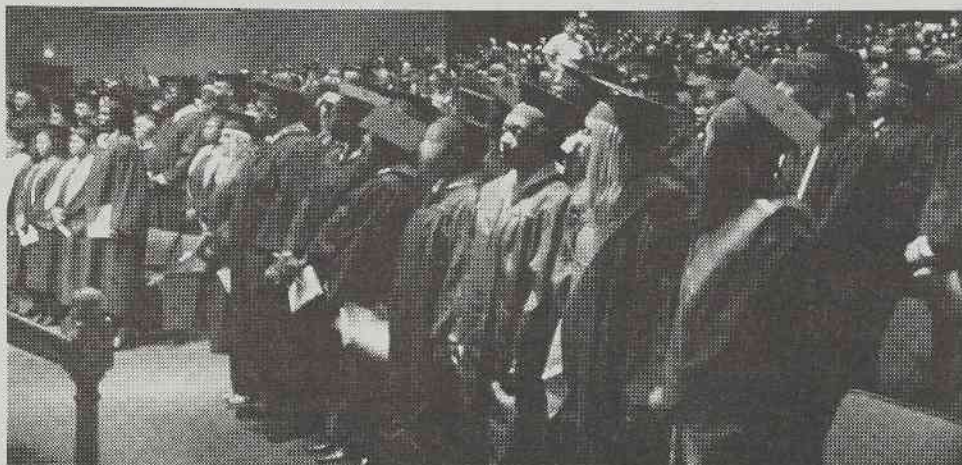
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Parting Shot

Life is good

2003 December Commencement



2003 Graduates assemble for Commencement Exercises

By: Ron Fitzwater

December Commencement was a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our Seniors and begin a new tradition for future classes.

The celebrations began on Friday December 12 2003 with the first ever dinner for December graduates. This tradition was started with the spring graduating class of 2002. The evening opened with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Presidents house where the students and their

family members could mingle with the professors and staff members.

The festivities then moved to the Carlton boardroom in the Dunn Center where Wesleyan Board of Trustees Chairman Thomas A. Betts, Jr. Addressed the graduates saying that it made him "feel good to be around seniors, because you're what we're all about. You are our end product." continuing Chairman Betts also told them that they were "like a new car, ya'll are brand new, shiny and full of great expectations."

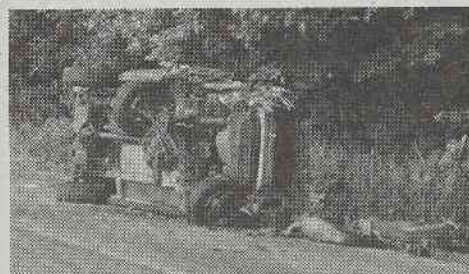


Photo: www.caraccidents.com
(No casualties suffered in crash)

By Ron Fitzwater

Finals week at any college or university is a time of stress, relief, panic, and fatigue to name only some of the conditions and emotions that students deal with.

Fall finals week of 2003 at NC Wesleyan came with some additional emotions; shock, disbelief and sadness.

NC Wesleyan lost one of our own on December 10, 2003, when Senior, Elementary Education Major Chande Pittman was killed in an automobile accident on NC Highway 97 in Edgecombe County. Although not the driver responsible, Ms. Pittman was the victim of an accident caused by what the NC Highway Patrol Investigator on scene, called fatigue.

How many drivers on the road today can honestly say that they have never driven when they were too tired?

The belief that "I can make it a few more miles." or "I'm almost home, then I can go to bed." has on more than one occasion been the cause of an accident like the one that claimed the life Ms. Pittman.

In his testimony on driver fatigue before The Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, National Sleep Foundation Senior Director for Government and Transportation Affairs, Darrell Droblich said, "Each year, automobile crashes claim thousands of lives and cause billions of dollars in damages and property loss. Although traffic crashes have many causes, driver fatigue has long been an under-recognized factor impacting driver performance."

Droblich additionally stated that

The evening ended and the students left to prepare for the following days commencement ceremony.

On Saturday December 13 2003 the graduates gathered in the Carlton boardroom to await the beginning of the ceremony which opened with much pomp and circumstance. After taking their seats the graduates listened as President Ian Newbould welcomed the assembled crowd.

Following the commencement address by Professor Richard L. Watson III, the Graduates received their degrees and were inducted into the alumni association.

At the end of the services the graduates, faculty, staff and family members gathered in the lobby and in front of the Dunn Center to take pictures and enjoy the day.



Thanks DJ, We ♥ You, Too!

Wake Up!!!

"The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conservatively estimates that 100,000 police-reported crashes are the direct result of driver fatigue each year. These crashes cause over 1,550 deaths and 71,000 injuries as well as \$12.5 billion in diminished productivity and property loss."

In most cases fatigue-related accidents tend to be the single-vehicle type in which a vehicle leaves the road and turns over or hits a fixed object. It has been estimated that between 40 and 60 percent of these accidents are due to driver fatigue, drowsiness or inattention. (NHTSA)

So you say, "That's not going to happen to me. I had plenty of sleep last night and besides, I'm only taking a trip up to DC for the weekend."

Well that may be true for you but then again it might not. The Traffic Safety Board of Oswego County

See Wake Up page 12