

Shiloh's Space

As I'm sure most of you do, I often find myself asking the question, "What am I doing here at Wesleyan? Am I really here to get education through Christian thought like the president says, or am I here only to get my hands on the four year B. S. degree which society deems essential in any sort of advancement in its strada?"

The problem with this 'thought' line is that first you have to define "Christian thought." Now being a very unreligious person like myself, (sorry all you Bible-belters), I have to rely on my own interpretation of someone else's idea on "Christian thought education." I don't know who this "someone else" is, but since the president hands down the commandments from this "someone else," I will use him as my figurehead.

Christian Thought. Those two words really sum up the major difference between Wesleyan and another non-sectarian college. What does "Christian thought" really mean though? Does it mean that the sexes should be separated from each other by library, classrooms, an administration building, 1 student union, and 1 infirmary? We have two very distinctly different societies at the north and south ends of our campus. It may not seem that way at first, but think about it. Here in South dorm we have an all-male society. We get up in the morning, go to our classes and mingle with people and girls. After classes are over we go to dinner and mingle again, this time with girls from on-campus.

You would hardly realize it though because you never get to see or talk to them half the time because they're so inaccessible.

Yes, you can take one out on a date but the average college man's wallet doesn't allow this but once every so often. I can hear the president now, saying, "Well, you can meet at the S.U. or the library," but how cold and impersonal these two meeting places are and besides, they close at 10 p.m. What are we supposed to do at night after 10? Study I guess. How about on weekends? The two fore-mentioned meeting places are now gone after a certain pre-dusk hour. What are we supposed to do on weekends? Go Home? That's fine for all you suitcase college students, but what the ones who are from Mass., New York, Florida, Penn., New Jersey? They can hardly go home for a weekend, especially if they don't have cars.

At the beginning of the first semester we were told that "date rooms" would be provided for us in either one of the two empty dorms or the infirmary. That would have

been a little better than the way it is now, but due to the apathetic attitudes of both the students and especially the administration, nothing has been done about it. It was September when the idea came up, it is now February. Promises, promises.

Upon entering college, my goal was to be prepared for the big world outside in every respect, including social. If my eyes don't deceive me, I don't see a society in which the two different sexes are forbidden to enter each others' habitat. From what I've seen of the outside world, you can invite a woman over to your house to talk, listen to music, study together in privacy, and to have an overall good time. It doesn't mean that every time a woman steps upon your domain that you make love to her, as some people or person seems to think. I just can't see a healthy attitude towards the opposite sex evolving from a closed dorm policy school like ours. We're not to the point of a situation found in institutions such as a prison, but I daresay we are nearing it. As I go through the dorm, I find men who are more comfortable around me than women and after spending a period of time at this school where Christian thought dictates closed dorms, they find themselves preferring to be around men rather than women. They know how to act around men but when a lady is around they either show animalistic tendencies or they become very introverted and self-conscious.

If Christian thought is where men and women are to be separated by lock and key, and if Christian thought is to think the only way you can really get to know the opposite sex is by taking them out on dates—pressure situations where you have to be right the first date or you don't get another, if Christian thought is where men feel more cozy with other men and women with women, then I think we are there. We, resident students, are thinking Christian thoughts. That's the interpretation of Christian thoughts seen through the eyes of a very typical Wesleyan resident student.

What am I doing here at Wesleyan? I again ask myself the same question. I could go to another school where the governing body of administrators aren't so hung up on their ideas about morals. After all we all know that as soon as women are allowed in men's dorms, there will be orgies and increased drug use. ("I don't understand why all you young people think that the only way to have fun when you're together is to have sex.")

So we must prevent it. Close the dorms during all hours. No women allowed in men's dorms.

That's final. No mothers, sisters, aunts, friends wives, girlfriend, no one. No female at all is allowed in the men's dorm. It's all right to get high off beer and other such things in the dorms, if we don't catch you, and we won't try. But women? No. Definitely not. No natural highs, we'd rather see you use drugs. We'll sell you pornography in the form of PENTHOUSE and PLAYBOY in the campus bookstore, but we don't want to catch you with women in your rooms. That's final. "Don't you be the example."

Ask not what your college can do for you but what can I do for my college. It is what you make it, just as you are what you make myself. And in trying to make myself ready for the real world outside, I will have to move on to another institution more suitable with my ideas about morals. Until then, I will sit back and laugh at the people making these moral judgments that affect our everyday lives here at Wesleyan, but in no way affect theirs. I certainly hope there are enough devout Christians in these United States who would like to come to a sexually segregated school to get an education. This school does offer 22 department majors, a wide selection.

This school doesn't seem attractive to me anymore, and like the president said for me to do in his first semester's rap session in the gym, I'm going to leave. I just hope for your sake Wesleyan, that you don't find yourself shut down again. This time due to lack of students. The lack of students would be caused by these religious regulations imposing upon us by some unknown supreme being.

I hope y'all heard me out there in Bible-belt land. If you did, respond. Remember, this article is only one man's opinion until confirmed by others. Show some life, Wesleyan students. Yes, you my friend. That finger is pointing toward you. I know there is still some life in you. All we need is a spark to ignite the flame and before we know it we'll have a bonfire. Well, I've said enough, so I'll be signing off for a while. Later.

SHILOH

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Just Ask

Wesleyan College. Is it a commuter community? Or is it a community of resident students? Or, is it both? Or, can it be ONE community?

If this question is not one of initial concerns to the students, faculty, and administration, surely North Carolina Wesleyan College is headed in the wrong direction.

It seems to me that the student body is one of the groups to be consulted on any problem, especially those questions that concern the students. I hope the resident students have not forgotten the loss of Open Dorms in September. You will recall the manner by which it was done. The action was taken without student consultation. There was no opportunity for students to express their opinions until after the edict. All we can do now is to work towards regaining the right or shall I say the privilege. This matter does not have much effect on the day students and for this reason it does not seem to concern them.

The failure of the student government is another major problem that confronts us. Let no one misunderstand me, the students are the primary reason for the failure of the student government. The group has in essence disbanded due to lack of interest. The Student Senate has only once had a quorum.

If you sit down and really think about it, would the student government have any power if it did exist? The power of the student government disappeared with one event. The loss of Open Dorms, which the S.G.A. fought so long for, destroyed the concept of "power" in the S.G.A. There are few political issues on this campus in which the students can become involved.

Whatever the reason was for the fall of the S.G.A., the real issue is the restoration of the organization. The only way this can possibly happen is to give the day and resident students a vocal and an active role in the social and academic life on

campus. I challenge the administration and the financial supporters of this institution on this issue. I ask them to consider it. Surely an inactive student government is not a very positive attraction to prospective students.

With the loss of Open Dorms, we also lost much of our social life. Hall parties were inexpensive and very inducive to keeping resident students on campus over the weekends.

I consider a college education to incorporate far more than just the academic enlightenment of students. College should also be a place where you learn to live with other people. It should be a time when one learns what sort of self-control and self-confidence one has and a time of social and academic "experimentative." By no means am I professing the abolition of all rules and regulation. Society has regulations to live by and so should a college community. I do ask for meditation and compromise in regard to the wishes of institution's hierarchy and the wishes of the students.

If the resident students fail to obtain a more representative voice concerning student affairs, then there soon will be no more resident population. Our Wesleyan might just become a day school. With the loss of resident students it is possible that school might fold. I would hate to see this.

The faculty here is probably one of the best in the area. I am asking that our social environment equal the classroom. I also ask that the "school" allow the students to express their views as freely as the faculty allows. I request that the "school" listen but also to act responsibly toward the student population.

I believe that if the resident and commuter students work toward a revitalization of this campus, with the support of the administration, this goal can be achieved. This goal can be accomplished only after student unity has been established.

By SANDY SAUNDERS

I'm Wondering If Where I've Been Is
Worth The Things I've Been Thru

James Taylor