

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804



Twelve large trees were felled on NCWC's campus during Hurricane Irene, which caused power outages and led to a one-day cancellation of classes.

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Enrollment Declines For First-Year Students

By Joshua Meeks
Senior Staff Writer

North Carolina Wesleyan's freshman class dropped to 229 students in 2011, but the college hopes to increase the number next fall with new leadership in Enrollment Management.

Last year's freshman class numbered 278, according to college officials.

While the college announced tougher admissions standards last year, there was minimal change in the average test scores of new incoming students. After a final audit, the college reported that average SAT scores decreased from 890 to 885, while the average ACT scores remained at 18.

Among the new students, the average grade point average did rise by .07 from last year's average of 2.91 to 2.98.

The gender differential saw little change from 2010. The freshmen class is comprised of 129 males, or 56.3 percent, and 100 females, officials said. Wesleyan continued its dedication to diversity, adding 18 from countries that include Nepal (six students), Sweden (five), Australia, Canada, England, France, Gambia, Germany, and Iceland.

Bill Allen, the new vice president of Enrollment Management, attributes the smaller number of new students to the higher standards established at the school. "The numbers are down a little bit because of the decrease in applications and the increase of denials," Allen explained.

Allen reported that the number of applications decreased from 1,847 last year to 1,651 in 2011. At the same time, the college's rejection rate climbed from 8.3 (or, 154 students) to 14 percent (230 students). In 2006, prior to the national recession, Wesleyan received 1,316 applications and denied admission to 7.75 percent (102 students), Allen said.

As part of the admissions process, Allen said, the college is requiring more personal interviews and considering the addition of an essay. "We're taking a lot of time to judge motivation levels, which is tricky," he said.

Many Wesleyan community members have noticed a difference on campus as a result of the smaller freshman class. "There seems to be less people in some of the organizations around campus," said Terrance Hooks, junior class president, "but I feel like there are some new freshmen here with a different attitude. They seem to be excited to be here while in the past it seemed as if the students were tired of school and forced to be here."

Steve Myszak, director of Residence Life, agrees with Hooks about the change of atmosphere on campus. "They [freshmen] seem very excited and engaged this year versus past years," Myszak said.

Myszak also noted that administrators were surprised by a higher than expected retention rate from last year. With a higher number of returning students, the college has altered plans to close Petteway Hall for the year. "Due to lower numbers we were initially going to shut down Petteway to take advantage of low enrollment and do renovations to the dorm," he said. "With an increased number of returns, we were forced to not only use the entire first floor of Petteway but also use about half of the second floor."

North Carolina Wesleyan won four conference championships last year and it could not have been done without the contributions of freshmen. Of the 229

incoming freshmen, about 45 percent are athletes. The number is an estimate, Allen said, because Enrollment Management bases its numbers on information contained in student applications.

A smaller freshmen class means smaller teams, at least in football. In the past, the football team has brought in 80 to 100 freshmen, but saw that number dwindle to 56 in 2011. Head Coach Mark Henninger sees the change as both a positive and negative for his team. "From a football perspective," Henninger explained, "with fewer guys, we can give each of those guys more instruction on technique and there's a higher chance they'll have a positive experience. And it allows the upper-classmen to lead and helps the team grow tighter. On the other hand, we don't have as many guys as we need for depth purposes. We're about 10 guys short to have what we need for practice."

Allen assumed his position late in the process—last March—and although numbers are down and the outlook of the school appears somewhat bleak, the new VP spoke with enthusiasm and determination about the challenge that lies in front of him.

"There is a challenge," Allen said, "because there is a competitive marketplace with a lot of good colleges in North Carolina. But we have already changed some of the old ways things were done and implemented some new."

When asked to name specific initiatives, Allen already had a long list in front of him.

"We're developing a more professional admissions process," he said. "There is a lot to do in a little amount of time, so we already have counselors traveling, and we are trying to do more follow-up than in the past."

Allen identified several regions as possible growth areas. "We're trying to focus more energy on the Virginia, Maryland, DC area," he said, "and we're looking at South Carolina and New Jersey as places where we could grow."

Allen's staff has increased phone activity to try to reach students on a more personal level. "We have ambassadors on the phone encouraging students as we try to rank prospects' interests," Allen said. "We want personal conversations with applicants to try to find who they are and what motivates them. We need to find their hopes and dreams and see how Wesleyan fits that."

Allen expressed confidence that his department will help Wesleyan grow as "America's next great college." He thinks an improved web page will be an essential component in that process. "We need to work on our identity as a school to build a better brand," he said. "We need more images of what Wesleyan is and show it on a revamped webpage, which is a key marketing tool."

Along with an enhanced web presence, the college needs more promotional material to support the college's marketing effort. "Last year, our counselors would go to college fairs and wouldn't have anything to give the students," Allen said. "We have a beautiful campus and we need to let people see that."

Allen has high goals for the school but he does not have a specific number he wants to reach next year. "We just need to improve our current numbers," he said. "We need to work on what we do best and build on that."

Housing Update: NCWC Continues Renovations

The Decree staff conducted a recent email interview with Director of Residence Life Steven Myszak. Now in his second year at NC Wesleyan, the Indiana native holds a BS from Saint Joseph's College (Rensselaer, Indiana) and master's degrees in student personnel and higher education.

He's worked in higher education since 1996, beginning as a residence hall coordinator at East Carolina University. Among his many positions, he has served as the Director of Residence Life at Barton College for three years and Assistant Director of Residence Life at ECU for five years. From 1999 to 2002, Myszak was employed at NC Wesleyan as a pre-major advisor and coordinator of tutoring as well as director of WesBridge (the pre-cursor to Freshman Advantage).

Q. First let's discuss the improvements that were made to the residence halls over the summer. Could you please detail the changes?

A. Petteway, Edgecombe, Nash and Collins lobbies had sheet rock installed over the concrete, ceilings were lowered so that the new lighting could be mounted flush with the ceiling, and new flooring was laid in a combination of faux wood tile and carpet tiles. Also the lobbies were painted, flat screen LCD TVs were installed, and new furniture will be placed in the lobbies come mid-September. The goal is to move the buildings from dorm to Residence Hall, where students can watch television, play video games, and be comfortable in a "living room."

In Nash Hall a kitchen was added so students can cook if they choose, especially when the dining hall is not open over breaks. Additionally, in Nash Hall each room on the first floor was renovated to include: faux wood tile on the floor and sheet rock covering the concrete blocks. Ceilings were dropped in order to have new flush-mounted lighting as well as canister lighting, and the old built-in closets were removed. Corian sinks/countertops and cabinets with sensor faucets replaced the old sinks. New windows/blinds, new room doors with dead bolt-style locks, and new furniture (adjustable-height beds, dressers, desks, chairs, and wardrobes) were purchased. In the hallways on the first floor, the ceilings were lowered for flush-mounted lighting, sheet rock was installed to cover the concrete blocks, and new carpet tiles were laid.

Q. What process was used to determine which improvements to make?

A. In late April Attila Szekes, director of Facilities, Dean Randy Williams and I met to look over the flooring choices and discuss the need to have the halls feel more like home. We came up with ideas on how to make this occur. At this time we were only looking at renovating Nash 1st. The Board of Trustees approved the renovations in May (after our students left) and asked us to consider renovating all the lobbies. A designer who has worked with several college campuses was hired. The designer then provided schematics which were approved by the college. Then a construction company was hired to commence work.

Q. How much did this summer's renovations cost?

A. The estimated budget for the Nash first-floor changes was around \$265,000. With the addition of the three other lobbies, I'm sure this changed; however, I do not know for certain.

Q. How did Wesleyan fund the work?

A. The Board of Trustees agreed to allow the college to take out a loan for the improvements until the Capital Campaign can help pay for the rest.

Q. Remind us of the specific renovations undertaken last summer (2010) and during last school year.

A. A couple of the halls received new front doors, and Petteway and Edgecombe adopted card-button electronic access to the halls. Petteway's first-floor bathrooms were renovated, and so was one bathroom in Edgecombe.

Q. What's your reaction to all the work done so far?

A. I'm happy with the renovations that have occurred. And Attila and I have learned what we would do slightly different in the future. My hope is that as an institution we will continue to address the residence halls in order to provide students with a comfortable, safe, and enjoyable experience. While students are here to receive an education, the outside-of-class experience should aid, and not detract, from the academic experience. Today's college students are smart shoppers. They realize they can earn a degree at a wide variety of educational institutions and it's the outside-of-class experience that can assist them in their decision-making. I'm confident that the College started right on track as we continue our own journey.

Q. What have you heard from students and other staff about the improvements?

A. The staff informed me that they're

amazed at the beauty and comfort of the renovations. From the students, especially our returning students, I've heard that they are proud of the lobbies and want to make sure that the residents take care of them. The students are encouraged and recognize we're trying to improve their experiences, but they also understand that they have a responsibility to maintain the nice environments in order for us to continue renovating the halls. Nash residents are proud that they have the nicest rooms in the Residence Halls!

Q. What renovations plans (if any) are envisioned for the upcoming year?

A. At this time I have not been involved in any conversations regarding renovations. My hope is the college will be able to continue with the renovations in Nash.

Q. Update us on the Wesleyan Villas.

A. This summer the college purchased three of the villas, with plans to lease a fourth, as we have had many students show interest in living there. Currently we have 17 students living in the three we own (12 women and 5 men). When we lease the fourth townhome, we will have 6 more men living there for a total of 23 students. A significant change is that a student resident, Melanie Rhodes, is serving as a community advisor (CA). The CA's main responsibility is to communicate with me, be a resource for the student residents, and encourage responsibility in regards to what it means to live in a neighborhood. Melanie went through a week of training with the residence life staff and is prepared to help the townhome community.

Villa residents were selected in the following manner:

—During the "Return to Residential Living" process in March, there was a sign-up sheet for interested students, who also completed an application for our residence halls.

—In April I reviewed the hours earned and the current cumulative GPA of student applicants.

—The students with the most hours and the highest GPA's were allowed to move into the townhomes.

Also, student who were previously in the townhomes were allowed to return to them if they wished.

Q. Are there any plans for more such housing?

A. I have not been involved in any conversation related to purchasing the two we do not own or in building more. I believe the developers would work with us if we desired to build something like the townhomes out there.

Q. Last year, in an effort to help freshmen make the transition to college, Wesleyan integrated first-year students into the same dorms with upper classmen. We know that move was made before your arrival, but assess whether the initiative has been a success.

A. I have only heard what it was like prior to my arrival. From my understanding, last year was a noticeable improvement. I cannot say it was because we integrated the upper-class and freshmen, as I have not done the necessary assessments that could yield this data. My instinct tells me that life in the residence halls improved for a variety of reasons that include staffing as well as integration of freshman with upper class. But research concerning living environments has shown that freshman learn how to behave and navigate college life from the upper class students who live near them. Last year I heard minimal concerns regarding the integration that occurred. This year I haven't heard any concerns. This doesn't mean the concerns aren't there.

Q. What's the current status at Petteway? We got an initial report that it would be shut down. Now we understand that certain floors have been closed and just for one semester.

A. Based on the number of enrolled students and the fact that Petteway needed some minor renovations, we were trying not to place students in this hall. But due to our gender breakdown and the available spaces in the halls, this was not possible. Currently, we have the first floor of Petteway filled and I have several men on the second floor. Hopefully by the time our community reads this, the men on second will be moved off this floor and into their permanent assignments. Petteway first floor will remain open as we do not have bed space in the other halls to accommodate the male students.

Q. How will this save the college money?

A. If we had shut down Petteway, we would have saved money in the form of payments for AC, electricity and water. Unfortunately, I don't know exactly how much this would have saved, even though last year I had requested information from our Facilities department.

Q. Is the plan to return the Petteway to full use in the spring? How will that be determined?

A. At this time there is no plan to have

Petteway go to full capacity unless we do an awesome job at recruiting 80 new male students, who would then fill the second and third floors.

Q. Describe the damage to the residence halls during Hurricane Irene.

A. The halls did not sustain damage during Irene other than loss of electricity, hot water, A/C.

Q. When did we lose power and when was it restored?

A. Power was lost on Saturday and restored on Monday morning. Due to the electricity being out, the hot water also went out. For the most part, our students understood what was occurring and why. Additionally, when we lost power the issue of meals became priority. Sodexo did an amazing job at working with one of their sister schools to bring sandwiches and hot food to our students.

I would like to see the college invest in some generators that could be hooked up to our residence halls to ensure power stays on. While this is an item that would only occasionally be needed, I believe it would add to the safety and emotional well-being of our students during crisis.

Q. Over all, how did residents conduct themselves during that weekend?

A. For the most part our students acted responsibly. The Residence Life staff was on hand to answer questions and to aid in calming down anyone who needed help. The students rallied together and I've heard that several stayed up all night in the lobbies playing games and talking. Of course we had issues regarding students misbehaving, but these students were talked with during the storm and immediately after the storm.

Q. What other changes might we see, in the upcoming year, in the area Residence Life?

A. Residence Life is growing and in my opinion becoming a stronger department on campus. I have been fortunate to hire Courtney Quinn as an area director responsible for Edgecombe, Nash and Petteway halls. She has great experience in residence life and has a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University. In addition, Humza Ismail is working as an area director for Collins, Boddie and Centura halls while also being responsible for the Taylor Recreation Center. He earned a masters degree from Austin Peay State University.

The RAs went through a strenuous week of training which I don't believe has been seen here in recent years. The RAs are motivated and understand the importance of maintaining order while developing the relationships on their floors. I'm excited about the Residence Life staff as they have already gone above my expectations this year and I look forward to the RAs continuing in their successes in programming and relationship building, and serving as referral agents so our students receive assistance.

Q. There have been reports of bed bug in the dorms. What can you tell us?

A. I have one confirmed room of bed bugs in Edgecombe (as of September 20). This past summer we had a company come out with a bed-bug sniffing dog on two occasions, once at the beginning and once at the end of summer. The dog is 93 percent accurate at sniffing out bed bugs and their eggs. The second time, no bugs were found in any of our halls. The first time two rooms were found with bugs.

Q. If your department were given \$5 million tomorrow, how would you spend it?

A. I would first hire another area director. While our current set-up is adequate, it is definitely not ideal. I would then renovate our halls in some fashion but I would also include the "guts" (the systems such as electrical, plumbing, HVAC). No one sees these improvements but they impact student satisfaction. In conjunction with the renovations, I would like to build a new residence hall that specifically serves our freshmen to develop a specialized first-year living learning community. About eight years ago, I had the opportunity to be part of a campus that built a new hall and this cost just under \$3 million for 100 beds.

Q. We imagine your position keeps you pretty busy. When you get free time, what do you like to do to unwind?

A. I have a four-year-old son whose name is Sonny. So when I leave work, I go into a daily routine of fixing dinner for my family and spending quality time with my son. After Sonny goes to bed, I enjoy reading to unwind. On weekends I like playing cards with friends, and of course my partner and I are still renovating a 1917 home. That work was put on hold when Sonny came into our lives.

NEWS & OPINION

Wesleyan Community Remembers September 11, 2001

Decree staffers interviewed members of the NC Wesleyan community and invited them to offer their recollections from September 11, 2001:

Vivian Brown

I was in the sixth grade at Hairston Middle School in Goldsboro, when 9/11 occurred. I didn't know what was going on until my mother picked me up around lunchtime. I was one of the last students to be picked up and it wasn't until my mother informed me what was happening that I learned about the devastation. Everyone else had been informed and knew about the

saying, "Turn on the news, turn on the news!" I was half sleep so it took a minute to come to my senses. As soon as I turned on the TV, I saw a four-way split in the television; one side had pictures of the Twin Towers and the other of the Pentagon. The buildings were burning uncontrollably and I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I flipped through all the channels and every station had the 9/11 devastation displayed on the screen in big white letters. My first reaction was confusion. Was I dreaming? Was it real? Who would do this? It took a while for me to soak in everything.

Though there were constant reminders of the terrorist attacks in the following days, I

weekend's game. The coaching staff and I were telling the players not to concentrate on the attacks so they can focus on the game.

John Jackson

What mostly sticks out in my mind was my mom was at the Pentagon for work. I was in elementary school and the teachers brought the students into one classroom. I was really scared because I had no idea about my mom. We didn't get sent home but they shut down the area around Arlington, Virginia. Everyone thinks the Pentagon is in D.C., but it's actually in Arlington. My dad works close to the Pentagon, so no one could come get me for a long time. I really didn't know what the World Trade Center was, but I knew they had hit the Pentagon, so I was more scared than anything. I was really relieved when my mom got home that night at 8.

Junica Kernizon

On September 11, I was in 5th grade sitting in Ms. Calender's class. We were going about class as we would do on a regular day and then another administrator stepped in the room and whispered something to Ms. Calender and she suddenly looked worried. She didn't say anything to the class but she wouldn't let anyone leave the classroom. Our parents had already been contacted to come get us from school but we didn't know why. My mother came and picked me up, but didn't say anything, just that she needed to take me home. Once I watched the news and saw what was going on, I didn't fully understand. Then I realized that my mother works right there in Manhattan and by the grace of God she was able to make it to me.

Matthew Marsee

I was in North Carolina at the time, in elementary school and all the teachers left the rooms. Nobody knew what was going on, so I didn't really think anything of it. Class was released and there was a mad dash to get everyone home. I wasn't directly impacted but I was just kind of mad that my parents turned the TV to the news when I got home. I had no idea it was as bad as it was and I really didn't know the true meaning of it all. We didn't go to school for the next few days and I remember everyone freaking out because they said schools were supposed to be targeted next and all kinds of crazy stuff was going to happen.

Kevin Quicker

I remember being in the 8th grade, in my favorite class, P.E. The teachers told us to head inside quickly during the middle of one of our field sessions. When we got inside, they explained to us what was going on. This was a little scary to me because I was only 30 minutes away from Washington D.C. I remember some kid in my class joked about it and one of the teachers was furious with him. We then went on to our next class, and after the second plane hit, we were to be picked up from school and taken home. With me being so young, I was a little unsure how significant this would be. My dad told me that someday, I would be reading about this event in history books. That helped me understand.

Kandyse Shaw

I walked to my Brooklyn school like any normal day but the only thing that wasn't so

normal was that it was chilly outside. I entered my 6th grade homeroom class to get my attendance taken and, soon after, I proceeded to the locker room to change clothes for gym class. After I changed clothes, I headed upstairs and sat in my assigned spot for class. Immediately, the fire alarm bells rang and our principal, Ms. Taylor, came across the PA and announced that everyone must be escorted to the gym and wait for their parents to come and pick us up. I didn't know what was going on and the teachers weren't telling us. So I moved around the gym and I looked out the window and saw a lot of smoke in the air. I was wondering what had happened and then my teachers started talking amongst themselves and I heard one say "we're being attacked; they've hit the Twin Towers." I was rather worried about my mom because she works right there in Manhattan. My sisters came and picked me up from school and they told me my mom was okay. We walked home from school. When I reached the house, I watched the attacks on TV.

Sterling Smith, Jr.

I remember getting out of class early and my mom taking me home from school. I had a hard time understanding what was going on. I only realized what all was going on when I saw my mom watching the attacks on TV. I was in shock. I couldn't believe this was actually happening in America. I didn't feel as safe.

(9-11 recollections were gathered and prepared by Georgettae Fields-Turrentine, Joshua Meeks, Bristy Parker, Kevin Quicker, Melanie Rhodes, and Kandyse Shaw.)



Wesleyan's ROTC cadets at the college's 9-11 ceremony.

Grattan Photo

events, but for some reason I was unaware up until that point. My mother told me that two towers had fallen, and immediately I thought it was an accident. I inquired about how they fell and she explained that some terrorists who hated America ran planes into the Twin Towers in New York City. Anger set in because I wondered why people not only hated America, but had the audacity to bomb a building. I was scared as well because I had a brother in the army at the time and thought he would have to go fight in another country. I knew war was coming next and I blamed Bush for the attacks because he was just elected into office and, ironically, America got bombed shortly afterwards.

James Cheatham

I was in fifth grade and all of a sudden my teacher told us to sit down in the cafeteria. On TV, they showed us two tall buildings and what was happening to them. They explained what was going on but at the time I did not know what it meant. As I heard more and more, I soon realized the devastation that was going on in our country. I remember worrying about my aunt, because she worked at the Pentagon. I was scared that she could have been hurt. Then it came as a relief to me when I learned that, although she was supposed to be at work that day, she ended up not going into the office. We were very lucky that it happened that way.

Georgettae Fields-Turrentine

When 9/11 happened, I was in the eighth grade. It was a typical cool, breezy autumn day with a few clouds. Luckily, I was home sick (with a newly diagnosed condition called Rhabdomyolysis). I lived in Temple Hills, Maryland at the time and I had just woke up when my mother came rushing in the room

didn't know the severity of the situation until days later, when I traveled down Interstate 395, past the Pentagon, and saw all the road blocks and checkpoints. A 20-minute drive now took two hours, with bumper-to-bumper traffic. Even though I didn't lose family members or friends, people at the church I attended had loved ones injured and one man lost a brother, who worked in the Pentagon. The D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia area was never the same after the attacks. My school had stricter rules on who could pick up children, barriers were made around government buildings, security was doubled in downtown D.C., traffic worsened and it took a lot longer to reach certain destinations because you could no longer just ride up to establishments. Seeing the immediate and progressive changes in security was astounding because I never saw such caution with how you entered common places such as museums, schools etc. It felt like jail because there were police everywhere and places with little-to-no security checks were now patting you down and requiring photo id.

Mark Henninger

I was coaching football at Wittenberg University in Ohio. My wife called after the first plane hit. There was no TV in my office, so I couldn't follow as closely as many other Americans did that day. I thought the first plane was an accident. Our team practiced that day, one of the few in the nation to do so. There was a flight path over our practice field, but on that day there were no planes except for Air Force 1. The whole team stopped to watch this huge plane fly over our heads. I was a combination of angry and scared throughout the day. Driving home that night, I thought the world was going to be different; I didn't know how but I knew it would. It was tough getting our players focused on the

Opinion: Racism on Rise in Europe

By John Kostet
Opinion Page Editor

I will forever remember the summer of 2011 with great sadness. May and June had been amazing and July wasn't that bad either. But on July 22, the joy of being home turned into hate and horror. The worst massacre in Scandinavian history took place on a Friday afternoon on the island of Utøya, outside Oslo. I was just about to shut down my computer and head out to the car when "bomb" headlines suddenly came flooding in through all media channels from around the world. A car bomb had exploded in Regjeringskvartalet, the governmental district in Oslo. The explosion killed eight, and ten were critically injured. Many of the government employees were either on vacation or had gone home early for the weekend, which kept the number of casualties relatively low.

After hearing that a suicide bomber failed to detonate a bomb in Stockholm, in December 2010, most people, including myself, made a quick assumption that the attack in Oslo was launched by Islamic fundamentalists as well. On the public radio, the hypothetical discussion went on about which Islamic terror group could be responsible. What was the motive? Who or what was the target? It was reported that the Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, was safe and unharmed. Stoltenberg had not been inside the building at the time of the explosion. Instead, he had left early to prepare a speech to give at a youth camp on Utøya the day after.

About two hours later the same idyllic summer camp turned into the darkest of nightmares, as a gunman dressed as a police officer gathered people to inform them about the attack. The disguised police then picked up his semi-automatic rifle and began to indiscriminately execute everyone within sight. Some of the older leaders tried to stop him in vain. Some campers pretended to be dead and many jumped into the water to try to swim their way to safety. The gunman fired extra shots to make sure the lifeless bodies were dead, and stood by the shore to snipe any child who tried to escape. He then walked a last round of death around the island, calling on people to come out of the woods, saying "it's all over" and "you're safe now" before executing them. Among the victims was a 15-year old girl with Asperger syndrome.

When the slaughterer—he was also the bomber—felt he was done, he picked up a cell phone and made a call to the police. "Hello, my name is Anders Behring Breivik and I am a commander in the Norwegian anticommunist resistance movement against Islamization of Europe and against Islamization of Norway. My operation here is complete and I would like to surrender." The recording of this call was published in several newspapers.

A total of 78 innocent people were killed on that day, and 30 of them were young people. The camp at Utøya was hosted by Arbeiderpartiet's youth organization AUF, the ruling labor party's club for teenagers with a political interest. The annual summer camp combines lectures and discussions on democracy with soccer games, cookouts and music jamming by the bonfire. It's

a popular camp with great traditions where a lot of the well-known politicians started their careers. The attack on Utøya was not only an unprovoked bloodbath but a stab to the heart of Norwegian democracy. The massacre will go down in history as a strong expression of the contagious Islamofobia that has been spreading across Europe during the last decade. I do not think that the first world had seen such a plague since the rise of evil in Nazi-Germany during the 1930s.

With evil roots and traditions of hatred, disguised right-wing parties have lately made their way into parliaments around Europe with an obvious xenophobic agenda, forcing democratic countries to reduce their openness. Just like any disease, racism tends to spread most efficiently during times of tension. Economic recessions have a bad habit of creating naïveté, fear and hate among people. The high level of unemployment has led to discontent and pessimism among young Europeans, and some have obviously gone through a major identity crisis. The powers of the political right-wing have not been late in recognizing their weaknesses and their request for easy political solutions.

In Denmark, the right-wing Dansk Folkeparti has gained solid support since 2001 and has managed to not only enforce stricter immigration and protectionist laws, but it has also consciously changed the tone and attitude towards people who are not of Danish descent. My own country, Sweden, and our other neighbor, Finland, have seen recent examples of simple-solution parties establish themselves in each of our parliaments. Sverigedemokraterna in Sweden and Perussuomalaiset in Finland have simple policies—stop the immigration and leave the European Union. Boom, just like that and everything will be fine. But concealed in their reform packets are hints of chauvinistic undertones, such as the banning of adoption from foreign countries, restrictions of foreign languages, and bans of veils and construction of mosques.

In Holland, the Party for Freedom has become the third biggest party with an outspoken Islamofobic leader, Geert Wilders. "I do not hate Muslims, I hate Islam," he said while comparing the Koran with Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf." As the construction of minarets was banned in Switzerland last year, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) concluded that, in recent years, the Swiss People's Party had taken on a "racist and xenophobic tone" that has led to racist generalizations and a "deep sense of unease in the Swiss society."

The growth of Islamofobia in Western Europe has obviously skyrocketed, but is still not as bad as the racist trends that have been established in Eastern Europe. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the drastic change from suppressive communism to sordid oligarchy has led to immeasurable inequalities of distribution. The economic differences between the new rich elite and the poor masses in Eastern Europe are larger than ever before.

In Hungary, for example, a radical and far-right nationalist party called Jobbik has become famous for their

controversial policies. The party slogan is "A Movement for a Better Hungary" and they describe themselves as "a principled, conservative and radically patriotic Christian party," whose "fundamental purpose" is the protection of "Hungarian values and interests." Many right-leaning activists around Eastern Europe see their party as a role model, while scholars and political opponents call them fascists, anti-Semitic, anti-Roma and homophobic. The U.S ambassador in Budapest, April H. Foley, concluded that "Racist remarks can be made without any consequences in Hungary, and ethnic minorities can be humiliated and insulted here."

The Norwegian equivalent is called Fremmskrittspartiet, whose policies are similar to the rest of the right-wing parties around Europe. Their naïve goal is also to stop the development of multi-culturalism, openness and democracy. Breivik was a member of Fremmskrittspartiet. He defined himself as a Christian with the confused belief that the so-called "Islamization of Europe" had to stop and that the "traitors" of Norway deserved to die. These "traitors" that Breivik executed were innocent teenagers with a belief and support for an open society and human rights, such as the right to seek protection and asylum.

Five days after the attack Jens Stoltenberg held one of many press conferences, stating "The Norwegian response to violence is more democracy, more openness and greater political participation." The statement is in total opposition to the former U.S President, George W. Bush, and his reaction after the tragedy of 9/11, which truly changed the American society. Then, in 2001, the world was told to either be with or against the United States in a new war on terror, and prevention policies were introduced to intrude on human rights and people's integrity, such as the Patriot Act.

The massacre at Utøya this summer will of course also cause a major change of the Norwegian society, but I believe that the change will and can be put in a different direction than the U.S administration did in 2001. "I think what we have seen is that there is going to be one Norway before and one Norway after July 22," Stoltenberg said. "But I hope and also believe that the Norway we will see after will be more open, a more tolerant society than what we had before."

The democratic struggle against fear, hate and racism will continue and only grow stronger because of this tragic event. As one of the survivors, Helle Gamestad, 18, said to the New York Times about Breivik, "He can take the lives from our friends but not their thoughts and wishes and beliefs, because that's going to go on with the rest of us." I, and many with me, have certainly become even more convinced that the main political goal should from now on be to create even more open and just societies without tension and threat of violence. Stine Renate Håheim, a member of the labor party had her mind set for the future on the morning after the massacre: "If one man can show so much hate, think how much love we could show together."

THE DECREE

since 1960 "of, by, and for the Wesleyan community."

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SPORTS



Bishops freshman running back Jacques Alston in recent action. Lewis Photo

Despite Early Losses, Football Team Optimistic

By Bristy Parker
Associate Sports Editor

Update: The Bishops lost their third in a row, September 24, at LaGrange, as the Panthers scored a late touchdown to win, 24-17.

Although the Bishops have opened with a 0-2 record, Coach Mark Henninger is still looking forward to another successful season. In 2010, the Bishops tied Christopher Newport for first-place in the conference at 6-1.

“The past two non-conference games have served as a measuring stick before we get into the regular season,” he said. “Win or lose, the games put us in a position where we’re forced to play competitively.”

The coaching staff will look toward the returning starters for leadership as the Bishops seek to defend last year’s title.

“The veterans bring experience,” Henninger noted. “How they go, our team goes. They have the abilities of playmakers and they’re the nucleus of the football team. Having the returners is beneficial for team chemistry and great leadership as well.”

On defense, key returners include linebackers Javon Boddie, Tazmon Foster and James Wallace; as well as Dwayne Hollis at defensive back.

Henninger added that the Bishops have lost many key defenders since last year: linebacker Antonio Harris, as well as defensive linemen James Carter, Jaren Wilcox, and Mike Young from the defensive line. “We have good players but not the same level of strength,” the coach said.

Henninger said that some newer defensive players have raised their game. He singled out Gerald Wells, a former backup, who has “worked really hard” so far as the replacement to Carter, last season’s conference defensive player of the year. And the coach commended Keith Blunt for “doing a great job shouldering the load at outside backer.”

On offense, key returners include running back Jamal Smith, wide receivers Avery Butler and Greg Edwards, and offensive tackle Frank Willis. Kevin Quicker enters his fourth season as the team’s punter and place kicker.

Assistant coaches Quinderra Spellman and Kevin Burant both mentioned that the Bishops’ offensive line is young and untested.

“We’re relying on a lot of young guys, but we’re confident they can get the job done,” stated Spellman. Henninger noted the fine work of sophomore center Justin Smith. “He’s tough and he’s got a lot of fight.”

Another important new starter is quarterback John Jackson, a junior, who succeeds last year’s signal-caller, Jordan Vann. Vann threw for nine touchdowns and completed 62 percent of his passes during his freshman year, but transferred after the season.

“John Jackson had an outstanding camp and he is developing as a leader,” Henninger said. “He’s not a vocal guy but we’re asking him to do something outside his role.”

Even with a number of young players, the coaching staff expects the 2011 Bishops will again compete with their traditional nemesis, Christopher Newport, for conference supremacy.

“The league is tough, but Christopher Newport is always going to be a big game around here,” Burant said. “The importance is magnified even more when you’re only playing ten games.”

Added Spellman, “It’s always a toss-up. And I think Ferrum will be in the mix this year. But ultimately, our biggest competition is whoever we’re playing that Saturday.”

Wesleyan’s football team started the season with losses to two non-conference opponents, 38-20 to Ohio Northern and 56-17 to Hampden Sydney.

“There were some positives and negatives,” Henninger said after the Ohio Northern defeat. “We missed a lot of opportunities and didn’t make plays and the other team didn’t make mistakes.”

The Bishops turned the ball over four times, with two interceptions and two fumbles. The team was penalized 11 times for 90 yards.

Noting the 95-degree game-time temperature, Henninger added, “I think it was a matter of mistakes, typical first game stuff. We weren’t in great game shape and the heat got to us as well.”

The Bishops fell behind 31-6, before scoring two fourth-quarter touchdowns. Freshman Jacques Alston returned a kickoff 84 yards for one touchdown, and Jamal Smith scored on 1-yard run with 13 seconds remaining. Quicker kicked two first-half field goals, from 42 and 41 yards.

The Bishops were back in action September 10 vs. Hampden Sydney.

“Hampden Sydney is going to be a big test,” stated Henninger before the game. The Tigers proved Henninger’s prediction to be true as they defeated the Bishops on their home turf, 56-17.

On the day, the Tigers amassed 552 yards in total offense, as quarterback Travis Lane turned in a near-flawless performance, completing 28 of 32 passes for 389 yards, and 7 touchdowns, including 4 to wide receiver Kyle Vance, who caught 11 total passes for 170 yards.

Quicker was dissatisfied with his team’s performance. “I’m very disappointed and I thought we would do much better,” he stated. “We had a great week of practice. It’s just mind-boggling.”

Assistant Coach Russell Rouse was not impressed by Saturday’s performance either. “It didn’t look good out there,” he said. “We made a lot of mistakes and there were a lot of mental errors. In the second half they jumped on us real bad and we just got too far behind them.”

Jamal Smith felt that it was a little more than just mistakes that led to the defeat. “We’ve got to work hard and play with heart out there,” he said.

Against the Hampden-Sydney, the Bishops were led by Jackson’s 24 completions on 34 attempts for 257 yards. Wide receiver Jarret Coffield was his favorite target, snaring 5 passes for 95 yards, while Alston led the way with 77 yards rushing and both NCWC touchdowns.

On defense, Foster and defensive back Sterling Smith each contributed ten tackles, with Smith collecting an interception.

With New Defensive System Soccer Team Begins Season 1-3-2

By Kevin Quicker
Co-Sports Editor

“Shaky, shocking, and a work in progress.” These are just a few of the words to describe the beginning of the 2011 men’s soccer season.

There were some questions going into the 2011 season. With 120 wins, 43 losses, 13 ties in 10 seasons for former head coach Jason Kilby, the main question was, how are they going to do without him?

After only four losses last season, the Bishops have started the season with one win, two ties and three losses. For the seniors and the team’s supporters, the start is quite shocking. Through six games last year, the team scored 24 goals; so far this season: 4.

Taal attributes the team’s slow start to its youth and inexperience. The Bishops have 12 freshmen and 7 sophomores on their 31-man roster. “Once we get these young guys to believe in this system, and get them to work together with the older guys, we can become great,” said Taal.

The Bishops hosted their annual Roger Taylor Classic Tournament. Ohio Northern University, Wilmington College, and nationally ranked Wisconsin-Oshkosh joined the Bishops to take part in the prestigious event.

The Bishops opened the tournament and their season against Wilmington College. Wesleyan got on the board first when senior forward Owen White



Omar Kanten SI Photo

played a through ball to freshman striker Omar Kanten, who put the ball past the keeper and into the back of the net. But this lead lasted all of three and a half minutes, as Wilmington had a free kick from about 30 yards. A high shot, from Wilmington’s Dan Wicks, was misjudged by junior goalkeeper Al-

berto Faisca past his outstretched hands and into the goal. The game ended 1-1 after 90 minutes of regulation and 20 more minutes of overtime. Toward the end of the match you could see signs of fatigue from the Bishops, as some of the players began to cramp.

The fatigue became more evident the next day when Wesleyan faced Ohio Northern, as cramping was a regular occurrence throughout the game. ONU got on the score sheet in the 20th minute, when Cameron Johnson created his own opportunity and blasted the ball past freshman goal keeper Dylan Yeargin. Twenty minutes later Kanten tallied his second goal of the tournament, connecting from 25 yards, hitting the crossbar and into the goal, giving goalkeeper Mac Church no chance to make a save. But that was all of the scoring the Bishops produced while ONU went on to score two more goals in the 52nd and 63rd minute to get the win and claim the tournament championship. Senior Justin Wolf and Kanten were named to the All-Tournament team.

Wesleyan’s third game of the season was against Guilford College, a team the Bishops have dominated throughout the Kilby era. The game ended 0-0 after 110 minutes of play. In the second half, White received his second yellow card for an off-the-ball altercation, resulting in a red card and an ejection from the game. Playing a man down, Wesleyan packed it in on defense with a couple of half chances that did not really faze the opposing goalkeeper. Faisca kept the Bishops in the game making numerous big saves, giving the Bishops their first shutout of the season.

The Bishops next traveled to New Jersey to play in the Rutgers-Camden Fall Tournament. New Jersey was not friendly to Wesleyan as the team lost 1-0 to William Patterson, and 3-0 against the host school.

The Bishops finally put a tally in the win column with a 2-0 win over Lynchburg, national runners-up a year ago.

“This was a big win for us,” said Taal. “We experimented with a new formation this game, the 4-4-2, and it worked out really well.”

Discipline has been an issue this season as the team has 12 yellow cards and a red card.

“The big thing we are lacking right now is discipline,” said Wolf, a defender.

“Once we become more positive, I believe we can turn things around.”

Senior defender RJ Bass feels as though the Bishops have been getting better. “Although it is not noticeable by looking at the results, I can tell we have been improving each game,” said Bass. “Slowly but surely, we’re playing more team soccer and beginning to play for each other.”

Faisca, a junior, is a little stunned by the slow start. He played with the team in 2007 when the Bishops did not lose a game until the conference tournament, made it to their first Sweet Sixteen in school history. It was perhaps the best team Wesleyan has produced. “I’m used to winning and seeing a lot of goals on our end,” said Faisca.

Faisca has been one of the bright spots for Wesleyan this season as he has allowed only two goals in four games, with two shutouts.

Taal had been rotating between Faisca and Yeargin for the first six games, but Taal believes he has found his starter in Faisca.

“Both keepers have done well,” says Taal, noting that each brings different strengths to the team. “Alberto excels in some areas, and Dylan excels at other areas, but goalkeeping is all about consistency and (Faisca) has been more consistent.”

Even with the slow start by the Bishops, there is a lot of optimism amongst all of the players and coaches. “There is no reason to panic,” says Taal. “We’re continually getting better. We’ll be all right.”

Bishops Sports Briefs

Volleyball Loses Key Match to CNU

Christopher Newport continues to bedevil the NCWC volleyball team, taking their first match of the 2011 season, 3-0, in Newport News.

Last year the Bishops finished with an impressive 24-11 overall record, but their 14-4 conference record placed them well behind CNU, which compiled an unblemished 18-0 mark (38-3 overall).

The Bishops have begun the 2011 campaign with 7 wins and 5 losses. So far, their conference mark is 2-2, with 3-0 victories over Mary Baldwin and Greensboro, and the other loss to Meredith, which overcame an early 2-0 deficit to beat the Bishops, 3-2, in Rocky Mount.

See BRIEFS pg 4

Quicker’s National Football League Picks for 2011 Season

By Kevin Quicker
Co-Sports Editor

(Editor’s Note: the following column was prepared after NFL Week 1.)

After a summer of turmoil and uncertainty heading into the 2011 NFL season, I think it’s safe to say that this season will be great. After some surprising week 1 numbers—Cam Newton doing something no other rookie has done by throwing 422 yards in his first game as a pro, or 14 quarterbacks passing for 300 yards or more—this year is looking like it will be the year of the quarterback once again. Peyton who?

Week 1 really set the tone for the rest of the year, starting with the first game of the NFL season, when the last two Super Bowl Champions, the Green Bay Packers and New Orleans Saints, faced off in a shootout. Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees combined for 732 passing yards and six touchdowns, and the game was decided on a last-second goal line stand, giving the Packers a 42-34 victory. If that didn’t get your football juices flowing, how about Tom Brady’s 511 yards passing against the Dolphins on the first Monday Night Football game of the year? Or my personal favorite story line for week 1: the Ravens dismantling Big Ben and the Pittsburgh Steelers, forcing seven turnovers and winning easily, 35-7. Still nothing? Check your pulse.

I’m here to give you all of my picks and predictions for the 2011 NFL season, so YOU don’t have to worry about it. I’m going to tell you who is going to win: Comeback Player of the Year, Offensive Rookie of the Year, Defensive Rookie of the Year, Coach of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, and NFL MVP. On top of that, I will tell you who will make the playoffs and who will call themselves world champions in February.

Let’s begin. The comeback player of the year goes to the player who was injured and didn’t play for the majority of the previous season or just had a terrible season statistically. The player I have winning this award is everybody’s favorite player to hate, Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo. Romo broke his clavicle after a vicious hit in week six against the Giants, a hit that sidelined him for the rest of the season. Romo finished his shortened season with a shade over 1,600 yards passing, 11 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. This was a tough pick for me because of the inconsistency of Romo throughout the years. But he is going to need to carry the team on his back this season in order for the Cowboys to be successful, and he is capable of putting up big numbers.

Now onto the Rookie of the Year award. The easy pick for most of you would be Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton. After his record-setting game week 1 against the Arizona Cardinals, when he passed for 422 yards and threw two touchdowns and ran for one more, I don’t blame you. Sorry, Panthers fans, but the Cardinals were 23rd in the league last year in passing yards against. I need to see Cam in week 2 against one of the league’s best, the Green Bay Packers. So my Offensive Rookie of the Year goes to Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones, who has already made a name for himself this preseason and risen to the number-two wide receiver behind Roddy White. I expect Jones to get a lot of passes from All-Pro quarterback Matt Ryan, which translates into touchdowns. On top of that, I want to see someone that looks like the Predator win an award.

And my Defensive Rookie of the Year goes to Arizona’s defensive back Patrick

Peterson. Peterson has so much big play ability and seems ready to shut down other teams’ best wide receivers. Besides his play on defense, Peterson is a kickoff-return and punt-return specialist. In his first game as a pro, Peterson returned a punt 89 yards for a touchdown. He might be the only positive thing coming out of the Cardinals defense this year.

My Coach of the Year award goes to the Detroit Lions’ Jim Schwartz. I expect big things out of the Lions, with their young and athletic defense. They have come a long way from their 0-16 year, and if Matt Stafford and Calvin Johnson stay healthy, the sky is the limit for this young football team.

My Defensive Player of the Year goes to one of the best safeties of all time: Ed Reed of the Ravens. Reed, last season, missed the first six games and still led the league in interceptions with eight. Week 1 of this year he picked off where he left off, intercepting two passes from Ben Roethlisberger. I expect him to lead the league in interceptions again this year. It’s what he does.

My Offensive Player of the Year award goes to football’s pretty boy, New England Patriots quarter back Tom Brady. It was a toss-up between him and Aaron Rodgers. But with 36 touchdown passes and 4 interceptions just a year ago, Brady will continue that trend this year. And it doesn’t hurt when the NFL doesn’t let any defensive player touch him without getting a defensive penalty.

NFL MVP: See the Offensive Player of the Year.

All right, now we’re onto my favorite part. This is where I predict who is making the playoffs and who ends up winning the Super Bowl, very inaccurately of course.

So let’s start with the NFC. I think the top team coming out of that conference is the Packers. The other team earning a first round

bye is, Who Dat, the New Orleans Saints. In order, the other NFC seeds will be the Philadelphia Eagles, the Chicago Bears, the Atlanta Falcons, and, in the surprise of the year, the Detroit Lions.

The Eagles are going to beat the Lions in the first round, 21-17. The Bears will defeat the Falcons at home, 31-20. In the second round, the Saints will best the Eagles, 28-17, and the Packers will smack the Bears, 44-14. In the NFC Championship game, a rematch of the week 1 shootout between the Packers and the Saints, the Saints will not get revenge losing, 24-17, sending the Packers to their second straight Super Bowl. Fear the Cheese Heads!

Now for the six AFC teams making the playoffs. In order from one to six: the New England Patriots, New York Jets, San Diego Chargers, Baltimore Ravens, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Houston Texans.

In the first round the Ravens will get playoff revenge on their rivals, the Steelers, winning 17-10, and the Chargers will dismantle the Texans, 31-10. In the second round, the Ravens will go down to the Patriots, losing 21-17. In the other matchup the Jets will beat the Chargers, 24-7. In the AFC Championship the Jets will beat the Pats, 24-16, and head to the Super Bowl.

Now for my Super Bowl pick. The New York Jets versus the Green Bay Packers, a classic offense-against-defense matchup. For this I have to go with the swagger of Rex Ryan and the stingy defense of the Jets. I also think quarterback Mark Sanchez will have a great year, taking a load off the Jets running game. The score: 24-14.

Well, now that I jinxed the Jets and the Packers, I just want to apologize to all of the fans of those respective teams. I want to wish your teams luck this long, grueling season. Go Ravens!

CAMPUS LIFE

Advice Offered for First-Year Students

**By Emily Bower
Decree Staff Writer**

Freshman year. It's a year of question- ing and discovery, inquiry and learning. Organization is one of the main keys to success. Dr. Amy Karnehm Willis, associate professor of sociology, emphasized how organization ties in to overall success and achievement for new students. Jake Swartout, a business administration major, agreed. "Organization is key," he said. "Staying organized will allow you to stay one step ahead of the class."

Stephanie Battle, director of the Student Success Center, also spoke of organization, adding how important it is to prioritize activities and maintain a balance. "Don't pigeonhole yourself" Battle said, adding that getting

connected with campus activities is important, but maintaining a balance will allow you to be successful in the classroom.

Commuters sometimes have trouble getting involved on campus. "Just because you don't live on campus doesn't mean you can't be involved," said Dr. Bill Yankosky, professor of mathematics, who went on to urge students to remember that school work comes first.

Professors are eager to help any student who asks. Associate Professor of accounting Wendy Achilles echoed this idea, as well as emphasized attendance. "Be on time, and ask questions," she said.

Sophomore Steven Franklin, a business administration major, recalled one instance during his freshman year

when asking a question helped clear things up. Not realizing that "all of the buildings are connected," he didn't hesitate to ask the people around him for help. No matter how small or silly you may think the question is, he said, don't be afraid to ask.

Asking the people around you about professors can also help you get prepared. Criminal justice major Ritchie Duffie advises freshmen to "get the scoop on your professors so you can be ready for classes and know what to expect." Junior Anna Hart urges students to get to know their professors as well. "It really helps when you feel comfort- able going to your teachers," she said.

Besides being prepared for class and being on time, sophomore Rebecca Sabo offered another unique piece of advice. Coming to college, you may expect a more mature environment, but to many students' surprise, gossip is still a com- mon occurrence. "It's a small school, so watch what you say to people," Sabo said, noting that because of our small size, information travels fast between students. "Just realize that what you say may stick with you for the rest of your college career, be it good or bad."

At the same time, students should not be afraid to "explore outside your comfort zone." Junior Shana Ayers urged freshmen to "recreate yourself to be whoever you want to be." College is the perfect opportunity to change or get involved in different things.

Offering the quintessential piece of advice was Dr. James Bowers, associ- ate professor of English. Besides doing the work and staying on top of classes, he encouraged students to ignore their electronic devices. "Don't look at your cell phone. Can you believe that generations of students have gone through college without a cell phone and done just fine?" Although many of us wouldn't last long without our phones, it is important to respect your education and pay attention in class.

To be successful, every student must find what works for them. Sophomore CIS major Zach Seitter put it simply. "Just do the work!"



Jacqi Flynn is one of many Bishops who have been enjoying the introduction of Starbucks products at the library Internet café. Grattan Photo

Fall Fashion Frenzy

**By Georgettae Fields-Turrentine
Decree Style Editor**

The weather's changing. Stores are restocking shelves and racks. Fall is approaching. What's in your wardrobe? As an advocate for fashion, I believe ALL college students have the ability to look fierce. Money is the first thought that comes to mind, but I have developed a simple guide to enhancing everyone's fall wardrobe that is pocket and travel-friendly.

With the summer season ending and cooler climates approaching, many students have planned to take summer clothes home and bring winter clothes back. In a previous article, I talked about how tanks and cardigans can be combined and save the average college student money on purchasing merchandise for colder weather.

This article will focus on fashion as well, but its primary purpose is to inform the student body on this fall's hottest fashions and how you can get an inexpensive version of outfits worn by celebrities. Again, you don't have to break your bank account to look astonishing.

For women, scarves, boots, hats and jewelry are classic must-haves for fall. But these simple items have been revamped into a more contemporary style, giving fashion another great look.

Scarves, a classic fall item, have been in style for a long time, but there are some unique ways to wear them other than around the neck. In the past, scarves were worn when it snowed or during an extreme cold front. Now, a scarf is draped around the wearer so that it resembles a U. It can be worn without the jackets, earmuffs or mittens, and stores like Rue 21, Macy's, JC Penney, Nordstrom's, Ross, Marshalls and local vendors sell them in a variety of colors. Just because it's the fall season, doesn't mean you can't sport pink, turquoise, or other bright colors. Bright is the new black.

Another fashion must that has made my fall list is the fedora. I have seen a couple of female students on campus rocking the look and it adds a lot of personality to simple outfits. For those who don't know the hat by its technical name, many may know it as a hat worn frequently by R&B artist Ne-yo and pop artist Britney Spears. This is a hat that was worn primar- ily by grandfathers, but the younger generation has definitely welcomed it into their wardrobes. For women, the cost can range from \$10 on Buy.com, an online shopping site, to \$153 at Neiman Marcus.

As for men, the fedora is a must-have item as well. Men's styles can from \$20 at JC Penney to \$98 at Neiman Marcus. Certain stores carry certain brands and based on that, prices will vary. I recommend trying Ross and Marshalls first because it's the type of store that usually carries name or store brands at cheaper prices.

Ralph Lauren tops such as polos, sweaters, cardigans and vests are also popular for men. Though RL Polo was established in 1968, this brand is a classic and still remains in style after 43 years. His clothes are great in qual- ity even though the signature logo is simple. His popular emblem consists of a man sitting on a horse raising a polo stick. Simple. His brand is worn by all types of people, including college students. These shirts are a little more expensive, ranging from \$30 to \$100 in local department stores found in the mall, but I have a way where a couple of dollars can be saved.

Do you have transportation and time to unwind from schoolwork one week-

end? Go to Dillard's or Nordstrom's. The closest Dillard's is in Raleigh, which is 45-50 minutes away and the closest Nordstrom's is in Durham, which is an hour away. Although many students don't have cars, carpooling and planning a trip with car-owning friends is ideal because you get to escape the constant demand of school for a couple of hours.

These two department stores carry Ralph Lauren brand t-shirts in black and white. They are about \$38 and three come in a pack, which is a steal. When you break it down mathemati- cally, you're paying \$12.66 for each shirt. It's a lot less expensive and yet you still get to sport a popular brand at a reasonable price. For those colder days, add a sweater or light jacket and you're good to go!

If you must get the sweater or polo shirt but don't have time for longer trips, go to local department stores like Belk (in Golden East Crossing Mall) and search through the clearance racks because a lot of unwanted merchandise gets marked down as the season changes.

Film Review: 'The Help'

**By Melanie Rhodes
Senior Staff Writer**

Director Tate Taylor's latest film, based on the best-selling novel "The Help," gives the audience an insight on how maids were treated by their employers in 1960.

According to the film, the maids were not treated with dignity and most were mistreated and overworked. Most of the white women in Jackson, Mississippi who employed these maids felt that they were above these maids and as such, went out of their way to make them feel inferior. Despite the dark moments, the movie brought laughter to the audience as well as tears.

As Aibileen Clark, actress Viola Davis teaches us a valuable lesson. Davis helps the audience to live Aibileen's life as a maid as she tells her story of taking care of white children while her own son is at home. Aibileen refers to herself as a nur- turer: "I taught children how to be proud of themselves." After 17 years of raising white children, Aibileen finally becomes free from her bondage of working as a maid. However, her freedom comes at the expense of others when she walks away from the only life she has known.

Emma Stone plays the wannabe journalist, Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, who wishes to make a difference in the lives of these maids by chronicling their stories in a book, also titled "The Help." As Skeeter herself was raised by a maid, Constantine (Cecily Tyson), she knows from experi- ence what it was like for these maids.

Skeeter feels that her book will make up for the lack of respect that the whites showed the maids during this time. Her writing details the good and the bad of what it was like for these maids in the 1960s. Ironically, with the printing of her book, Skeeter's dream of becoming a writer is realized.

Octavia Spencer puts a new twist on being a maid as she brings humor to her role as Minnie Jackson. Minnie's character is sassy and full of humor and gives the audience a taste of what it is like for maids as she moves from employer to employer. Due to her reputation Minnie is scared of not finding a job but eventually is fortunate to find another position with a woman named Celia Foote (Jessica Chastain).

Foote's character is unique in that, although she is white, she lacks the superior attitude possessed by many of the other white women in this segment of Jackson society. Celia is a bumbling cook, doesn't know how to clean house, and more

importantly, seems just plain ignorant. But she looks like Marilyn Monroe, so the other women of Jackson hated her on sight.

Coming to Celia's rescue is Minnie, the outcast maid. To Minnie's surprise, Celia is kind and friendly and Minnie is freaked out by this behavior. During one scene in the kitchen, Celia reaches out to Minnie by cleaning a cut. Celia knows in her heart that this is not from a fall but from a beat- ing by Minnie's husband, Leroy. Despite her hardships and obstacles, Minnie is able to leave her husband and, at the same time, teach Celia how to cook and clean and become the wife that her husband wants her to be. The scene where Minnie, Celia, and her husband sit down to dinner together brings us hope that perhaps we can all live together in harmony and break the barriers between blacks and whites.

Bryce Dallas Howard's portrayal of Hilly is the equivalent of Jekyll and Hyde. How can Hilly be such a good mother and then, on the other hand, treat her maids in such a despicable way? Hilly's character goes to great lengths to make her maids feel inferior by belittling them. Because Hilly fired her for using her guest bathroom, Minnie decides to get even. Ostensibly she's bringing her a pie but to Hilly's surprise, Minnie gets the last laugh.

There are other scenes between Aibileen and Minnie that are touching to see as, throughout the movie, the two rely on each for strength and support. One scene shows Skeeter and her mom coming together to understand each other through the loss of Constantine; her mother's illness; and Skeeter moving on. As noted earlier, such scenes evoked both tears and laughter.

As I watched "The Help," I found the treatment of the maids appalling. To me it was inconceivable how these maids were treated in the 1960s and why was it so hard for everyone to live together. I was reminded that others suffered during this time and that we all need to be truly thankful for what we have today.

Despite the movie being two and half hours long, I found myself wanting more and I am anxious to know what happens next.

It is evident that this film is not for everyone. Some viewers may take offense at some of the events that happened, and not like the movie, and some viewers are going to like the movie and appreciate it.

Thumbs up to Director Taylor for bringing together such a fine cast and creating such a compelling summer film.

By Decree Staff

Wesleyan's ROTC program has grown in the past year. The Decree conducted a recent email interview with the program's primary instructor, Major Christina W. Drew, battalion executive officer, who assumed a joint position at NCWC and Raleigh's Saint Augustine College last January.

Q: Tell us about the current members of ROTC.

A: Since last semester, we have increased enrollment 400 percent. We currently have 12 cadets in the program at NCWC. We have every class involved: six freshmen, three sophomores, two juniors, and one senior. Our current group is extremely motivated, energetic, and dedicated. Those adjectives may seem clichéd, but with this group, very ap- plicable. We have student leaders, athletes, honor students, RAs, and cadets that have already been to basic training and are Army Reservists/National Guardsmen here in the area. Some cadets have experienced JROTC in their high schools. We already own a wealth of experience.

Q: Where do our cadets go after graduating from NCWC?

A: Our cadets are no longer cadets upon graduation; they're Second Lieutenants in the United States Army and inducted into the Officer Corps. Their com- mission as officers is either the same day as (or very close to) graduation day. The average Second Lieutenant will attend his Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) soon after commissioning. Commitments vary, but the normal course is about eight years.

Q: Does ROTC cover their tuition and room and board while at NCWC?

A: The opportunity to earn a scholarship is still very competitive, but there are other means by which cadets can seek financial assistance for college. My superior officer and Dr. Stubblefield are working on an initiative right now to examine the possibility of room and board financial provisions from NCWC. More to follow on that piece.

Q: Summarize the activities the cadets engage in each year.

A: A myriad of training opportunities exist throughout the year. A standard week includes three or more physical training sessions in the mornings at NCWC, classes, and leadership labs. Classes include a variety of subjects from the Army values, ethics, and care of others, to the study of strategy and theory, to tactical battle drills. For the most part, labs provide the practical application of what is learned in class. This includes basic soldier skills like drill and ceremony, land navigation, and map read- ing to more advanced pieces like small-unit leadership, land navigation, and tactics.

We facilitate a field training exercise at least once a semester at a local Army post (normally Fort Bragg or Camp Butner, NC). Here cadets learn field craft, land navigation, night land navigation, weapons proficiency, first aid, obstacle courses, rappelling, leadership reaction, and a host of other subjects. Regarding other activities, I'd like to say that, as an army, we embrace the value of selfless service. We seek out opportunities to contribute to sister groups within the schools, external agen- cies, and community engagements. This can include everything from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to participation in a sponsored run.

Q: What are your specific plans for expanding the Wesleyan program?

A: The 12 cadets we currently have at NCWC is the largest group we have had in several years. The critical pieces are reten-

tion of these cadets as well as continued recruiting efforts. NCWC faculty, staff, and executive team are extremely supportive of the ROTC program. President Gray and I have had numerous conversations regarding expansion of the program. Dr. Stubblefield participated in a visit to Fort Lewis, Washington, this summer for four days in which he observed cadets from across the nation in training. Mr. Carl Lewis supports us in reaching out to other universities (and of course his photos are magnificent), and Mrs. Marie Davis and Ms. Rachel Radford support outreach to the high schools. The current 12 cadets are already leaders within other organizations on campus, and that alone is probably the most significant recruiting effort.

Q: Are there specific activities planned by our group on the 10th anniversary of 9-11?

A: Yes. Our cadets participated in a 5k "Tunnel to Towers" run in Wake Forest, in honor of firefighter Stephen Siller. The cadets acted as road guards, ran the event, walked with 50 pounds of gear on their back, etc. It was a fine representation of our cadets. Addition- ally, our cadets were involved in the NCWC memorial on Sunday, September 11th as color guard, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and ushering participants. The message of 9-11 is not something that I convey, as many before me have framed it in eloquence. I simply want the cadets to understand the impact and relevance it has on their lives at both a macro and micro level.

Q: With the U.S. at war during the past decade, how has that affected participation in ROTC?

A: I thank my cadets every day for wearing the uniform. Although not soldiers yet, they take a huge figurative step in contributing to their nation. I'm amazed at the pride bolstered, patriotism fostered, and dedication to country manifested within our younger generation.

BRIEFS from pg 3

Update: The Bishops increased their win total to 9 last Saturday with USA South wins over Ferrum (3-2) and Averett (3-2) at home. The Averett victory was the 200th of head coach Robin Pietryk's career.

Women's Soccer Begins 0-8

The NCWC women's soccer team was still looking for its first victory of the season after losing the first eight matches, all non-conference, by a combined score of 44-2.

The team will try to get on track, when it opens its USA-South Conference season with two home matches against Shenandoah and Mary Baldwin on September 24 and 25.

Update: In two recent home matches, NCWC began to generate offense, first in a 5-2 loss to Shenandoah, and then, the next day, in a 6-1 rout of Mary Baldwin. Against MB, the Bishops were led by Rebecca Staylor's hat trick and two goals by Josie Adams. The team is now 1-1 in the conference, with a USA South matchup on the road against Ferrum today.

NCWC Golf Teams Finishes 12th

The Wesleyan golf team opened the year with a 12th-place finish at the Tom Kinder Memorial tournament on September 18-19.

Bridgewater College claimed the overall title with a team total of 583, or 7 over at the par-72 course. Hampden- Sydney's Rick O'Connell took medalist honors with a 138, or 6 under par.

The Bishops' low score was posted by senior Adam Coelho, who finished in a tie for 21st with rounds of 74 and 78 for a two-day total of 152. Allen-Michael Wilson (81-74) and Stephen Bardswick (76-79) tied for 36th with totals of 155, 11 over par. Darren Lau fired a second- round score of 74 after a first round 92.