

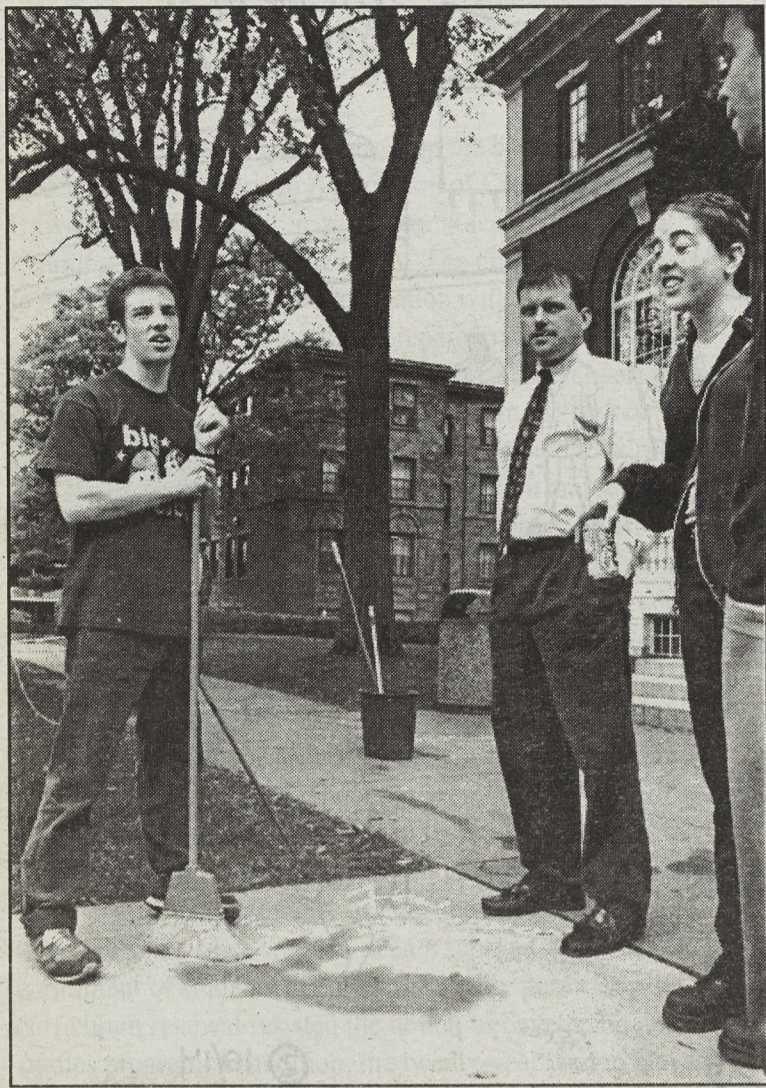


the wesleyan argus

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Wednesday, October 14, 1998



LAURA SCHAFER

Greg Barlow '02 (left) discusses the chalkings with Dean of Student Services Michael Whaley, WSA Vice President Emily Bronkesh-Buchbinder '00 and Queer Alliance member Patrick Rayner '99.

Queer Chalkings Erased

By Marisa Suescun
Arts Editor

Three students who found the chalkings written to celebrate National Coming Out Day obscene and misleading met immediate opposition on Monday after selectively erasing some of the messages.

Several students confronted the erasers and a heated dialogue ensued which culminated in an open meeting held later that night to discuss the importance of the chalkings and their erasure.

"I am disgusted," said Queer Alliance (QA) member Patrick Rayner '99 at the meeting. "I have rarely been so disgusted with Wesleyan. I think the chalkings are beautiful... And to see someone out there—not Physical Plant, which has happened before but students, erasing them... I am so unbelievably pissed. And I am so very proud that Queer Alliance showed up and was angry as shit."

"I was offended and embarrassed by a lot of the things written because I thought they were portraying homosexuals in a light playing up stereotypes that already exist," said Greg Barlow '02, one of the students who erased the chalkings, at the meeting. "And also I thought the language was lewd and vulgar."

Barlow, along with Jocelyn Greene '02 and Diana Silbergeld '02, scoured some of the chalkings before classes on Monday morning using mops, brooms and buckets of water. The messages had been chalked late Sunday night by members of QA and other members of

the Wesleyan community in honor of National Coming Out Day on Sunday.

After reading the chalkings around 8:15 a.m., Barlow said he and Silbergeld spoke with Dean of First Year Students Maureen Heacock, who advised them to visit Michael Whaley, dean of student services.

The students said that, while waiting for Whaley to arrive at his office, they decided to not seek administrative approval in order to make the erasures purely student actions.

Barlow and Silbergeld then left the deans' office and began scrubbing just as the first wave of pre-frosh open house tours were making their rounds. Greene, who said she participated in the chalking the night before and felt disgusted with the content of some chalkings, spotted Barlow and Silbergeld and joined them.

"We didn't have a dialogue. It wasn't a cerebral discussion. It was a gut action," Greene said.

Around 9:30 a.m., Public Safety Captain Mike Kishimoto asked the students if they had permission from the Administration. When the students told him they did not, Kishimoto contacted Whaley.

"The students were basically told they can chalk on the sidewalks," Kishimoto said. The University policy allows chalking on any horizontal surface and forbids it on porches, patios and pillars. The Administration decides if a chalking's content warrants removal.

"It's not up to Public Safety to discriminate," said Director of Public Safety Maryann Wiggin. Wiggin noted that the Administration has demanded the removal of chalkings in recent years, notably in the spring of 1997 when President Douglas Bennet forbade chalkings after a slew of homophobic statements were repeatedly scrawled

see Tension, page 7

Ivy Protest Directed Toward Pre-frosh

By Carrie McCarthy
Assistant News

Poison Ivy has struck again.

A group of students, who call themselves Poison Ivy, offered cookies, lemonade and anti-Independent Ivy propaganda to pre-frosh and their parents outside the Office of Admission during Monday's open house.

Several students also spray-painted 'Ivy Free 2003' on Foss Hill Sunday night.

"The Administration has been really nice about this issue," said Scott Cavanaugh '99, one of the organizers of the protest. "We wanted to emulate

them by being nice back by providing potential Wesleyan students with valuable information."

According to Greg Brodsky '99, one of the founders of the group, Poison

■ For coverage of Monday's Open House, see page 5.

Ivy's goal is to end the Administration's test of 'The Independent Ivy' as a marketing catch-phrase for Wesleyan. Poison Ivy is also responsible for the bright orange stickers introduced to campus September 28.

see Ivy, page 6

Wesleyan Strategy Released

By Andrew McIntosh
News Editor

Frosh Hill. The Independent Ivy. Electronic Portfolios. For students who are puzzled by the Administration's recent initiatives, all answers lie in an under-publicized document titled "Strategy for Wesleyan."

The document, which was announced in a campus wide e-mail after being posted on the World Wide Web on Friday, is the culmination of a planning process which began in the fall of 1995 to create a comprehensive vision for Wesleyan's future.

Written mainly by consultant Philip Parsons, the strategy is based on input

from faculty, students, staff, trustees and outside marketing and consulting groups. The strategy is still in draft form, and will be discussed at three campus meetings on October 15, 22 and 29 before a revised version is voted on at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"Institutions that don't try to envision a future fall behind and lose support, and if we do that it's going to be very hard to maintain our academic excellence," said President Douglas Bennet.

The goal of the draft is to condense five "planning streams" which encompass academic, financial and facility planning and marketing and

fundraising tactics into a comprehensive strategy.

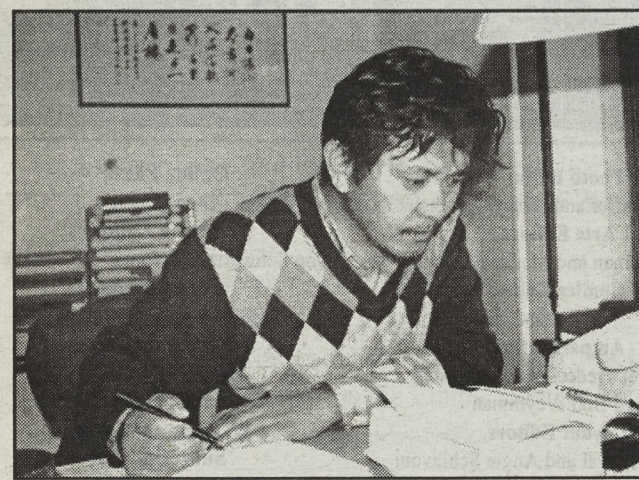
The draft divides specific plans into two categories: faculty and academic programs, and students and the residential community. The strategy calls for, among other things, the creation of 30 scholarships for top students, the development of a University Center as a social and intellectual focus of the campus, and the creation of 30 additional faculty positions.

An improved advising system utilizing web-based student portfolios, a consolidation of undergraduate

see Strategy, page 13

Tonga Writes About Tibet

By Diana Silbergeld
Contributing Writer



LAURA SCHAFER

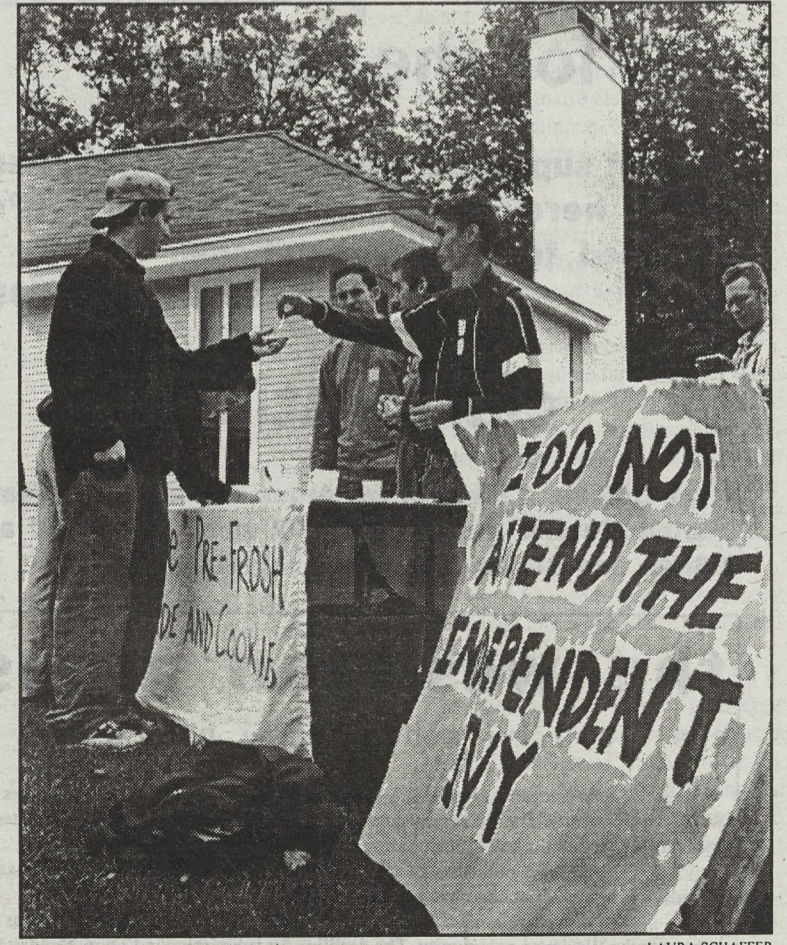
Visiting Freeman East Asian Studies Scholar Tonga is busy writing stories to add to his acclaimed repertoire.

His name means "to look happy" in Mandarin Chinese, and for Tonga, a native Tibetan and Freeman East Asian Studies scholar, that name is indicative of his personality.

"He is open, friendly, and approachable," said Levi Gibbs '02, a prospective East Asians Studies major. "As soon as people see him they feel happy."

Tonga is spending a year at Wesleyan as both a scholar and a teacher. An established short story writer from Lhasa, Tibet, Tonga got his inspiration from a famous American novelist. He recalls that when he picked up a copy of Ernest Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea" in Chinese, he never could have imagined where his literary journey would lead him. Reading Hemingway inspired Tonga to begin

see Writer, page 6



LAURA SCHAFER

Oren Livnat '00 hands a sticker to a pre-frosh at Monday's open house while Scott Cavanaugh '99 and John Kamp '00 look on.

inside:

Ding-dong: Who's there? Lots of Wesleyan alums and others experiencing an on-campus marriage.

Page 8

Pardon me, do you have any Grey Poupon? Check out a review of The Inn At Chester's fine cuisine.

Page 12

Cardinal Country: The men's cross country team cleaned house at last weekend's Bantam Invitational.

Page 19

The Definition of Dialogue

When three frosh scrubbed away several Coming Out Day chalkings, people were understandably outraged. It is simply wrong to stifle freedom of speech, regardless of how offensive one may find it. But the reaction which has ensued against the three frosh is too extreme.

The goal of chalking, of course, is to promote dialogue. And promote dialogue it does; however, the dialogue may arrive in shapes and sizes that do not correspond to the intent of the initiators. In this case, the dialogue was born of sponges and water. Students were angry, and attended a meeting to discuss the chalkings.

Here's where the problem comes in: the three frosh were ridiculously outnumbered and out-shouted. They were wrong to erase the chalkings, but protesting the stifling of free speech by stifling someone else's is also wrong. There was widespread confusion about the time of the meeting, which had not been publicized at all. Most of the meeting attendees were not accusatory or antagonistic, but the three "erasers" obviously felt intimidated by the ratio of 80 against three. The result was a very unbalanced meeting; these students are probably not alone in their opinion that some chalkings are offensive.

No one should be screaming at these frosh in the hallways of their dorms. In fact, no one should be screaming at all. These frosh did not erase chalkings maliciously; for students like these who have made a bad judgement call, not performed an act of hatred, dialogue needs to be reasonable and moderate.

Shouting "homophobe" at these students seems inappropriate in an environment which opposes labels. These three students had no right to decide what is or is not offensive for the entire campus, and they should have picked up a piece of chalk to add to the dialogue instead of picking up a sponge to obliterate it — a point well-taken from the meeting. Disagreement is a conduit to understand another point of view, not a reason to turn away from dialogue.

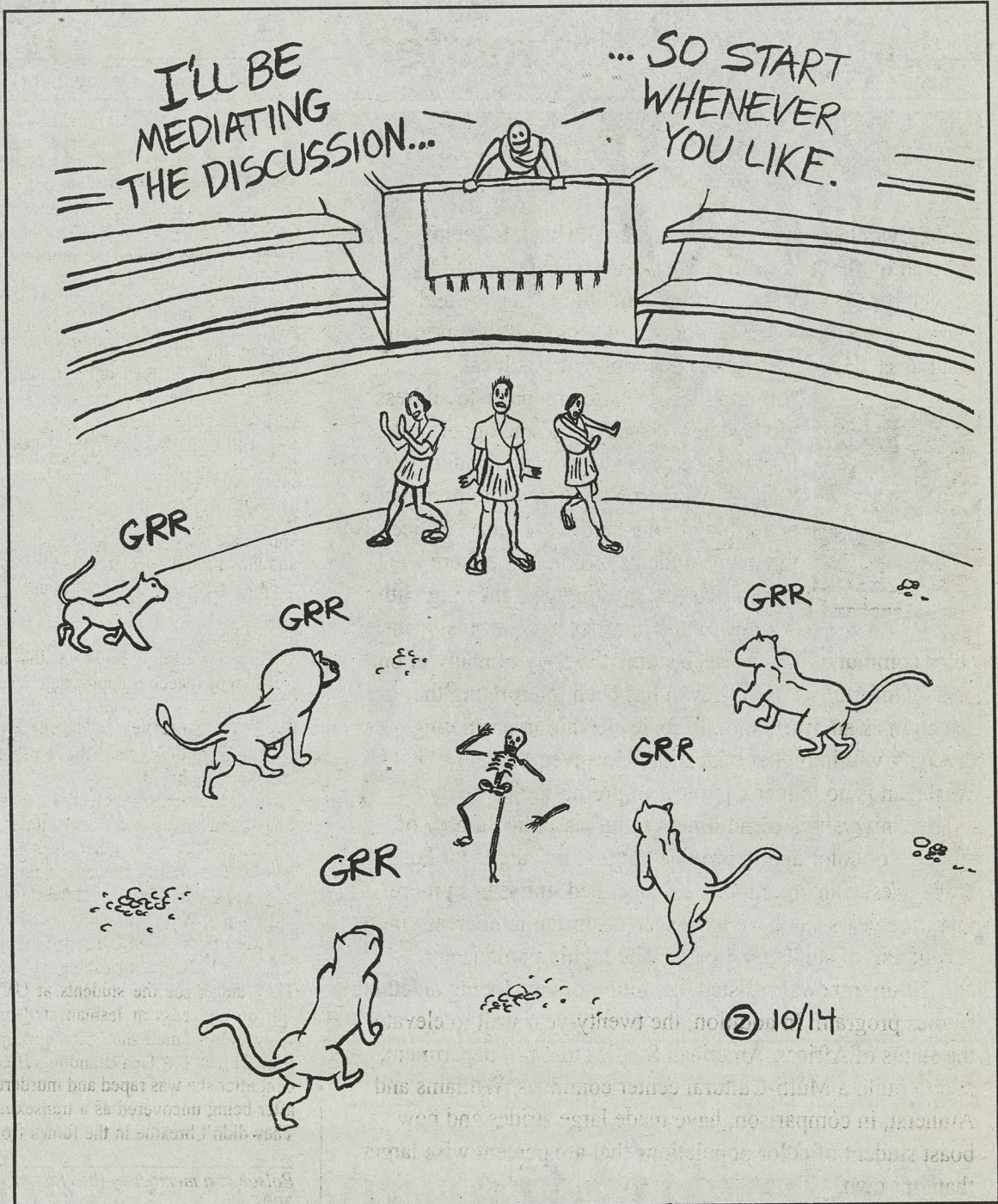
for the record

"It's not supposed to be nice and easy, like 'we're here, we're queer, yippee.' It's supposed to be confrontational."

— Patrick Rayner '99

clarification

In the October 9 issue of the Argus, the names of Sean O'Brien '00 and Hagar Berlin '02 were misspelled as O'Brian and Berlan. The Argus regrets the errors.



FOUR DAY WEATHER

wednesday october 14, 1998				temps F°
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
rain	cloudy	partly cloudy	partly cloudy	
64				avg. high
56°	60°	64°	66°	
46°	40°	42°	46°	

the wesleyan argus

established in 1868

The Wesleyan Argus (USPS 674-680) is published by the undergraduates of Wesleyan University. The University does not publish the Argus or influence its content, nor is it responsible for any of the opinions expressed in the Argus.

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The Argus welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces on topics of interest to the Wesleyan community. The deadline for submission is 12 p.m. Sunday for Tuesday publication and 12 p.m. Wednesday for Friday publication. All submissions must be typed and include the author's name and telephone number for verification. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words. Longer pieces should be submitted to the Wespeak editor. Community announcements should be not longer than 50 words.

The Argus reserves the right to edit all submissions for spelling, grammar and length. Due to the volume of mail received, neither publication nor return of submissions are guaranteed.

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the heart of the matter

Let's Talk

Wesleyan has been patting itself on the back for being selected by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) to part take in "Racial Legacy and Learning: An American Dialogue." The goal of the program is to address "How can higher education with its local



ray sanchez

communities, prepare graduates to address the legacies of racism and the opportunities for racial reconciliation in the United States?" Wesleyan's invitation to participate is a tribute to the hard work and sacrifice of the many students of color who were committed to recruiting, and meeting with

administrators in order to create a student of color community which has become the envy of many of our peers. Unfortunately, Wesleyan has been interpreting the selection as an affirmation of its leadership in promoting diversity within higher education. However, the reality is Wesleyan is no longer a pioneer in promoting diversity.

The University's commitment to increase the number of students of color and to provide cultural resources for the entire Wesleyan community has declined. It has been more than five years since we have seen a substantial increase in the enrollment of students of color. The highly publicized curriculum renewal resisted the notion of developing an ethnic studies program. In addition, the twenty-year wait to elevate the status of African-American Studies to a full department, and to build a Multi-Cultural center continues. Williams and Amherst, in comparison, have made large strides and now boast student of color populations that are percent wise larger than our own.

The AACU hopes to create a nation wide dialogue concerning race. Wesleyan is fortunate to be able to participate, but lets us also use this opportunity to begin discussing new ways on how we can again become leaders in diversity and multiculturalism. The administration has allowed itself to become slow and complacent. Wesleyan needs to become proactive, instead of being dependent on student pressure.

So let the discussion begin. How can Wesleyan and the Middletown community prepare graduates to address the legacies of racism and the opportunities for racial reconciliation in the United States? One of the many answers to this question is by providing for the academic resources students of color have been fighting for since their arrival on campus. The other is by providing support for programs such as Traverse Square Tutorial, the Black Art Festival, and Oddfellows Playhouse. All three are examples of Wesleyan students who work directly with the Middletown community and create environments where the "legacy of racism can be addressed." Although we may often find ourselves stuck in a sugar coating of political correctness, Wesleyan continues to be a place where students look to address the issues of racial injustice. Last year's packed Crowell Concert Hall to hear Arturo Rodriguez, and last weeks packed Science Center 150 on civil rights are testament to the character of Wesleyan students.

I hope every one enjoys their semester break. I ask only that we take a moment from our long weekend and think about ways to be apart of these dialogues, and that if anyone is interested in participating on the Ethnic Studies Committee to email me at rsanchez01@wesleyan.edu.

Wespeak submissions must include the author's name, box and phone number and should be no longer than 750 words. Wespeaks reflect the opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the Argus Editorial Board. Submission deadline for Tuesday's issue is Sunday at noon and for Friday's issue is Wednesday at noon. Call 685-3314 with questions.

An Apology Is in Order

By MICHAEL POLSON

Five minutes ago I walked out of what had turned into a two hour gab session about the hurt feelings of the Queer Community and the intentions of the people who decided this morning to helpfully erase the chalkings by Queer Alliance in recognition of National Coming Out Day. In fact I was doubting whether the erasers would ever decide to talk. But talk they did. Amidst all their words, their passive, impersonal verbs, and their debate-speak, they forgot to actually say anything (much less even approach an apology).

Oh, they spoke about how much they've "learned," and how they appreciate the dialogue they've begun, and they proudly declared that they do support freedom of speech and the validity of Queer people's right to speak and be heard.

They don't think, however, that all freedom of speech is appropriate when public space is involved. They do not think that some Queers who disagree with their politics deserve the respect to speak and be heard.

These erasers have selective senses. They see what's put in front of them ... in chalk. They hear what they can't ignore. They didn't however hear the cries and shouts of a gay college student in Laramie, Wyoming who was beaten last week by two men and tied to a ranch fence for 18 hours in freezing weather. They didn't see the students at UVA spit on and cuss at lesbian students. They didn't smell the blood gushing from 21 year old Tina Brandon's frigid cunt after she was raped and murdered after being uncovered as a transsexual. They didn't breathe in the fumes from

Polson is a member of the class of 2001.

An Apology About The Chalk Erasing

By GREGORY BARLOW

To anyone who was offended by the chalk erasing: I am sorry my actions offended you. It was never my intention to offend. The possibility had not even occurred to me. However, after speaking with many people who wrote and supported the chalkings, I think I have a good understanding of why my actions offended. These words on pavement had a very personal significance to the people who wrote them and the people who supported them. Erasing them was therefore seen as silencing someone's personal voice; not giving them a chance to speak and be heard.

It's very important to have the assurance of your community that you have the freedom to speak your mind. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. The students who chalked the campus were entitled to their point of view, and a form for expressing their opinion. When I erased certain chalkings, it was not because I believed people did not have the right to express their opinions. I support their freedom of speech entirely. However, I did not think chalking was an appropriate forum.

Monday morning I walked to class bombarded by phrases which I found lewd and vulgar. The path I followed was emblazoned with quotes like "your Dad sucks my cock", "Mocon tastes like cum", and by the cemetery on Foss

Barlow is a member of the class of 2002.

bombs set off in gay clubs in San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington D.C. and the world over. They didn't notice the fact that two blocks off this campus there lives people who would beat, rape and kill any woman they saw chalking "I love to lick cunt." They chose not to read the Wespeak in last weeks Argus about the purpose of the chalkings. Hell, they didn't even hear the people in Clark yelling at them "Fucking homos, get off our campus."

But they chose to take up issue with us because we made them uncomfortable. They said the chalkings perpetuate negative stereotypes of gay people. They are overly sexual and perpetuate the idea that "gay men act like women, and lesbians are women who act like men." But surprise, surprise! Gay people have sex, too and choose to fuck their gender in all senses of the phrase.

Most people at this school are not gay-bashers. They don't think that gayness is equivalent to "kleptomania" and other diseases as do major officials in Congress, or that all gay people sexually abuse children or are going to hell as my aunt believes. Nope. Homophobia exists in a much more subtle way. It exists in what we choose not to talk about. Anybody can agree with the principles of equality and fairness but once it gets personal and uncomfortable, the supposedly enlightened people ran screaming. They can't deal with what defines Queerness: sex. And it is sex that differentiates between Queer and straight people. The rest is just social noise.

Gay men can be campy, bitchy queens and lesbians can be leather-clad di-hard dykes, and that's o.k. If the erasers do not believe that they should behave that way, I welcome them to pick up a piece of chalk and let their voice be

heard as well.

But, if you think, as do the erasers, that some Queers are good because they act straight and others are bad because they fit the stereotype then stop and think about who you're really liberating here. If you had your choice, you would liberate only the asexual, polite, straight-acting Queeries. The rest can go fuck themselves over as long as they are out of sight.

One of the erasers pointed out that Queer people have no right to invade his personal public space (an oxymoron I hope is not lost on the reader) with chalk.

In response I say until you can make the world a place where I can kiss my boyfriend in public without worry, until you can make the world a place where I can wear my rainbow flag on my backpack and not fear who may be staring and whispering, until you can make my home a place where I can talk to my parents freely about my love for another man, until you can make the world a place where my sexuality isn't a political statement I say fuck you and let me live my illusion of community acceptance for the four years I am blessed to be in a Queer-friendly area. Because everyday of my life outside of this University, I face people who want to erase my sexuality, just like it were chalk, from everything I do.

I don't care about what the erasers intentions were, what they think they "learned," what discussion they think started, if they may identify with the Queer community and support it completely or if they are neo-Nazis who hate all faggots and dykes. Yesterday was about me, about my decision to come out for National Coming Out Day and not for the community at large. If anybody has a problem, I welcome them to pick up the chalk and join in the conversation or come to a QA meeting and ask questions. What is not appropriate is to silence my voice and the voice of other Queer people campus wide.

Sweethearts, it's time to question shit. To think about what the ramifications of your actions are before you decide to silence voices that want and need to be heard.

One Queer woman at the impromptu forum tonight began crying because she had decided to use the chalking to come out on the campus. When she walked outside her dorm she found the Queer in her statement "(name) is Queer" was erased. The erasers—I think—then began to understand that National Coming Out Day is not only done for the amusement of the larger community or that it is done by some amorphous glob of Super-Queers who storm the campus from some faraway cave. It has personal significance for every single person who picked up a piece of chalk at midnight on Sunday night. It was not for the erasers. It was not for the pre-Frosh wandering campus with their parents. It wasn't even for the Queer community.

It was a chance to make a temporary chalk mark on a world which has marked us for our entire lives.

I don't care why the erasers did it. I've been hearing erasers give their reasons my entire life. I've been hearing people debate how I choose to live my life as if it were as abstract as the upcoming elections. But, what may seem as an interesting topic for the erasers is my life. All I want is an apology.

On Sunday night we used chalk and chalk washes away in a few days to leave nothing but the concrete.

At the time of submission, the apologies on behalf of Barlow, Green, and Silbergeld were not public. Polson decided to submit his Wespeak anyway as many of his points are still relevant.

see Offense page 15

Pre-frosh Pour onto Campus for Open House

By Lily Raff
Contributing Writer

Next year, they might be in your classes, play on your team, or even live down the hall. But for now, high school seniors are still deciding whether or not to apply to Wesleyan.

On Monday, to help them reach a decision, the Wesleyan Office of Admission held an open house for prospective students and their families. High school students arrived and registered for the day's events between 8:30 and 10 in the morning. For the rest of the day, prospective students attended various panel discussions, tours, lectures and workshops.

According to Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Barbara-Jan Wilson, the open house was purposely held on Columbus Day since most high schools were closed and students would be more likely to attend.

Some students, however, were surprised by the festivities.

"I didn't even know there was an open house when I made arrangements to come here," said Jon Breitbart, from Amherst, Massachusetts.

According to Wilson, nearly twice as many students showed up for this year's open house than any previous open houses. The Office of Admission estimated that 260 high school students, accompanied by their parents, attended the open house. The University has sponsored the event the past four years.

Wilson introduced the open house with a speech at Crowell Concert Hall.

"The turnout was incredible...there were almost too many people; Crowell was packed," Wilson said.

Wilson's opening remarks were immediately followed by a discussion panel. Faculty members and students fielded questions from pre-frosh about academic and social life at Wesleyan.

"The panel discussion was presented well," said Thais McCoy, a prospective student from Barrington, Rhode Island. "I've attended similar discussions at other schools, but this one was much more specific and relevant."

"I think they should have had more students on the panel," said Monika Singh, a prospective student from Queens, New York. "I need to understand why students want to come here."

After the panel discussion, pre-frosh were free to pursue whatever individual

activities they could find on campus.

"I liked eating at Mocon," said Christina Darecea, a prospective student from Queens, New York. "The food is good."

"Instead of going to the rest of the open house activities, I want to...attend some classes," Singh said.

"I have an admissions interview this afternoon," McCoy said. "After that, I want to take a tour of the campus."

Pre-frosh also encountered a booth protesting the "Independent Ivy" slogan. The booth was outside the Stewart M. Reid House, where the

Office of Admission is located. Wesleyan students offered information on the debated issue, as well as cookies, drinks and stickers to interested visitors.

"I sensed that parents enjoyed talking to students about the issue," Wilson said. "I'm not sure how they felt about the issue, but I think they reacted well to the way students talked about it...It demonstrated Wesleyan's high level of student involvement."

Beyond the slogan protest, some pre-frosh were exposed to another controversy as offended students attempted to erase several chalkings

written for national coming out day.

Maddy Goodkind '02, who saw the chalkings, said she was concerned about the aspects of Wesleyan seen by pre-frosh.

"I'm worried that some students might get the wrong impression about Wesleyan," Goodkind said.

"The chalk messages were sort of intimidating," said Diana Lewis, a prospective student from Queens, New York.

"I always worry that some parents won't let their kids look at Wesleyan because of these types of chalkings, and that is too bad," Wilson said. "Some

people are appalled by it, but most people seem interested by the level of debate surrounding the issue."

"I think it's great," said Jaime Perez, a prospective student from Warwick, Rhode Island. "All the chalkings and all the people being pissed off about different things make it very exciting."

According to Wilson, many visitors responded enthusiastically to the open house, and to Wesleyan in general.

"I've received a lot of positive feedback," Wilson said. "It went very well."

"Wesleyan is a little different," Cohen said, "which is cool."

Resnetting Delay Frustrates Students

By Jessica Chin
Contributing Writer

Last semester, students choosing to live in campus-owned houses this year were promised direct connections to Resnet, but Information Technology Services (ITS) failed to install necessary wiring in all houses over the summer.

344 and 356 Washington St., the Well Being House, and the Park

Washington Apartments are among approximately 15 houses and apartments that have not yet been wired.

"It's a very complicated situation," said Ganesan Ravishanker, the director of Technology Support Services at ITS. "But basically, many of the houses were left off the list to be wired over the summer."

According to Ravishanker, the omission left Comcast, the company

that installs and repairs the University's data connections, unable to equip many houses with Resnet services before the fall semester began.

Ravishanker said ITS is now having trouble scheduling installation times that would be convenient to both Comcast and students.

"It seems like it is more inconvenient for us not to have Resnet than it would be for them to install it at any time," said Lauren McCarthy '01, who lives in a house that does not have Resnet. "I'm fed up that they keep giving me different dates as to when they are going to install Resnet."

"We had a lot of logistical problems just finding and collecting information on houses that needed to be wired," Ravishanker said. "But we're working with Res Life and we will continue to work with them."

Although students who live in unwired houses and apartments can access e-mail and the Internet through phone lines using modems, Resnet provides a quicker network connection without interrupting telephone service.

"The dialog server that I have to

use is extremely unreliable," said Josh French '00, house manager of 356 Washington Street. "It's inconvenient and expensive when you buy an ethernet card for your computer your freshman year in dorms, only to have to buy a modem because the house has no ether ports."

"I just feel that this is a service that the school claims to provide," said Rebecca Schiff '01, also a resident of 356 Washington Street. "And I realize that it's maybe more complicated for ITS to install, but it's been inconvenient for many of us."

"We're paying the same amount to live in this house as it would be to live in a dorm, and yet we're not being given the same perks," French said.

According to Ravishanker, ITS hopes to have Comcast install the remaining Resnet connections during Winter Break while students are away.

"We're shooting to have all the houses equipped by January," Ravishanker said. "We realize that this is a problem and an inconvenience, and we just want the students to know that we are trying the best we can."

International Films Debut in Fisk Hall

By Owen Benediktsson
Contributing Writer

Unbeknownst to most of the student body, a new Wesleyan film series has made its quiet debut on the fourth floor of Fisk. The weekly series, managed by four Teaching Assistants (TAs) who are graduate students in the Romance Language Department's exchange program, provides a Spanish or French alternative to the film board's Wednesday night offering.

French TAs Marie-Anne Roume and Matthieu Le Puillanore, along with Spanish TAs Luis Esteire and Eugenia Criado proposed the series after only a couple of weeks at Wesleyan.

"It was a group effort," Roume said. "Someone suggested it, and we all thought it was a great idea."

According to the TAs, the series was created to show recent European films that would otherwise be unavailable to Wesleyan students.

"French movies are not all slow and boring. There are lots of young directors now in France whose work is very exciting," Roume said.

"We are going to try to show a lot of films made in the 80s and 90s," Esteire said. "They have a more sarcastic and humorous viewpoint than the old European movies that most Americans have seen."

Roume said that the large movie screen in Fisk 413 makes the subtitles easy to read. French and Spanish films will be shown on alternating weeks and the TAs say they hope to add

see Foreign, Page 14

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Interviews: Friday, October 23 @ Career Center

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS –
NOVEMBER 1, 1998.**

Campus Advisor: Prof. Russell Murphy
Dept. of Government / 585-2482

Sidewalk Erasings Create Tension on Campus

continued from page 1

across campus.

When Whaley arrived at the scene in front of Olin Library Monday morning, he found the three students scrubbing on the chalkings.

"Hi. How are you?" Whaley greeted the students. "Can I ask what your approach is as to what you're erasing and what you're leaving?"

A crowd gathered as the students explained that the content of some chalkings such as "Cum tastes like MoCon food" and "Your Dad sucks my cock" offended and embarrassed them. Several students began firing questions at the three erasers. Many students said that they understood the erasers' reactions but felt disgust for their actions.

"You are now putting your opinion over other people's," said QA member Ami Student '00. "Even within Queer Alliance, there is always dispute over the chalkings...and I don't always agree with all of them. But I add my voice. I don't take away theirs."

"It's not supposed to be nice and easy, like 'We're here, we're queer, yippee,'" Rayner added. "It's supposed to be confrontational."

Rayner, along with Sara Jaffe '99, treasurer of QA, and Chris Hanssmann '99, wrote a WeSpeak in an attempt to prepare the campus for the chalkings and explain the chalkings' purpose in last Friday's issue of The Argus.

"It is about a constant reaffirmation of one's queer presence in the face of continued heteronormativity," the WeSpeak read. "Yes, perhaps as some people assert, we are flaunting our sexuality, but the flaunting of heterosexuality in popular culture is so pervasive that it can go unnoticed."

The three erasers said they had not read the WeSpeak. Whaley requested that the students suspend erasing the

chalkings and set up a meeting to discuss the issue.

"The whole point of this is that every single one of us will have a different opinion. For example, if I were on a crusade to erase certain messages, I would

"I don't feel I silenced your voices," Barlow told the group. "I made a protest against your voices."

not erase this particular message," Whaley said, pointing to a puddle blurring the statement, "New Admissions Slogan: The Queer Ivy."

"I personally agree that some of these messages are offensive to me personally," Whaley told the students. "But I would not presume that I could go out and edit them."

The three students agreed to stop the erasing, a meeting time was verbally established for 7:00 p.m. at the campus center, and the group disbanded.

Throughout the course of the day, some chalkings reappeared in front of the campus center where messages had been erased, including: "We won't go away as easily as chalk" and "We can't be erased."

Barlow followed the suggestion of a student in front of Olin and contacted a peer mediator, Cat Madill '00. Barlow said the two discussed the possibility of arranging for a more intimate meeting between a few "chalkers" and the three "erasers," and organizing a larger open forum later in the week.

Barlow then called Greene and Silberfarb to tell them the meeting was postponed, and went to the campus center with a piece of paper stating the meeting

was canceled only to find dozens of students in the hall outside of the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) ready to engage in dialogue.

"[Knowledge of the meeting] spread mostly by word-of-mouth," Rayner said. No campus-wide bulletin broadcast was sent.

Around 80 people crowded into the MPR, including Whaley and Madill, who facilitated the conflict. During the meeting, which lasted nearly three hours, most students described the importance of the chalkings to the queer community and encouraged Barlow to produce an explanation of what many called an offensive act of erasure. Greene and Silbergeld arrived around 7:40 p.m. after receiving word of the meeting.

"You can't just act on your feelings and get rid of it so that they can't deal with it just because you can't deal with it. You can't deal with it! This is Wesleyan. We have to deal with it," said Michael Gambale '01.

Barlow, who explained he is bisexual, said he felt statements like "we support necrophilia," which was chalked by the cemetery, perpetuate people's stereotypes about gays' and lesbians' sexual practices.

"There's a lot of people in this room who like girls' clits," said QA member Lisa Charbonneau '99. "And if you think there's a problem with that then keep it in your closet, because my closet's open."

Greene explained her reasons for erasing the chalkings, noting her discomfort the previous night when she was participating in the chalking.

"I didn't feel I was cool enough because I couldn't think of anything lewd to say," Greene said.

Greene added that when she heard students from Clark yelling homophobic slurs, she felt disgusted.

"And I still had chalk stains on my hands and I thought, 'I am fucking up the

campus,'" Greene told the group. "This [meeting] is promoting discussion, but what I was doing last night wasn't."

Many students offended by the erasure emphasized the importance of adding to the dialogue rather than subtracting from it by responding to the chalkings with more chalkings and discussion.

"I don't feel I silenced your voices," Barlow told the group. "I made a protest against your voices."

As the meeting continued, many students demanded an apology.

"I'm sorry that I made certain people feel that there was one force on this campus that silenced them," Barlow said slowly. "It was never my intention to offend."

Many students at the meeting were unsatisfied with the conditional apology. "He only apologized that people's feelings were hurt. He never recognized

"Yes, perhaps as some people assert, we are flaunting our sexuality, but the flaunting of heterosexuality in popular culture is so pervasive that it can go unnoticed."

that his actions were bad," Charbonneau said later.

Towards the end of the meeting, students became more frustrated and began to walk out of the room.

"No. Fucking say what the fuck you did!" Rayner implored the three students. "You know what you did. You know. For two hours you've been listening to

people say how pissed off they are. Do you not know yet? Stop talking around it and fucking apologize!"

When Barlow responded by citing shared public space, many students left the meeting, which ended shortly after 9:30.

"I wish I could've apologized, but I couldn't open my mouth at the meeting," Silbergeld said Tuesday. "I didn't know where to begin. Every person who spoke was changing how I felt."

"There's some validity to questioning the chalkings, and acting with integrity on a gut instinct, but we did a wrong and the meeting was a coming to terms with that," Greene added.

Silbergeld and Greene both expressed deep regret and a new awareness out of the experience.

"I am so startled at myself that I've wounded so many people," Greene said. "I don't want it to be about my selfish learning experience, because I've hurt more people than it's worth for me to have learned. All I can say right now is that I'm so, so sorry and I acted out of ignorance."

Barlow, who also wrote a WeSpeak, said he experienced discomfort with the repercussions of his actions and "thinking about what was left unsettled after the meeting and thinking about the personal testimonies of people who were so greatly offended by what I had done...Last night sucked." He said he felt better when he spoke individually with some students who had chalked.

Many students felt frustrated by the meeting, but proud of the force shown by the queer community.

"It was electric," Charbonneau said. "It was the antithesis of a commodified spectacle. It was one of the most spontaneous, energetic detournement I've ever experienced at Wesleyan."

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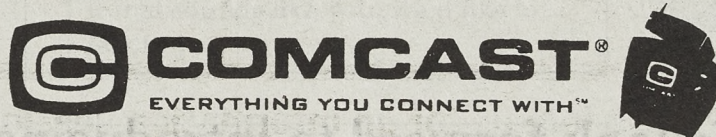
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ANTI-NEW YORK GRAFFITI TAGS FOSS HILL

STUDENTS ATTACK NORTH COLLEGE FOR TRYING TO BECOME A 'NEW YORK SCHOOL'

BY BOB WEYTHMAN, AMPEREDITOR-IN-CHIEF

STUDENTS PASSING FOSS HILL THIS WEEK WERE GREETED WITH A MESSAGE OF PROTEST AT THE BASE OF THE HILL SPRAY-PAINTED IN LARGE NON-GRASS-COLORED LETTERS WHICH READ, "NY-FREE 2003." THE MESSAGE IS THE LATEST STEP TAKEN BY A NEWLY-FORMED STUDENT ACTION GROUP AIMED AT KEEPING WESLEYAN FROM BECOMING WHAT THEY CALL A "NEW YORK SCHOOL."

"We are *not* a New York school! This is Connecticut," shouted Scott Junior '01, senior member of "Wesnony," a better sounding name for the anti-New York student group than "Wesleyan No New York," which sounds pretty dumb. Junior, a sophomore, is the frosh coordinator for Wesnony.

"Basically, I'm in charge of enlisting frosh for the group and telling them what to do," explained Junior.

But the struggle against New York has different meanings for other members of the group.

"We're all in it for lots of different reasons, mostly personal," said Mary McFeelme '99, co-chair for Wesnony. "Of course there are definitely those one or two students who are doing it to be cool, or who are red-green colorblind or something, and maybe some of us simply had a bad New York experience

once, but all of us have at least one thing in common - we all hate the idea of this school becoming a New York school."

"My father went to a school in New York. I don't want to become my father," said Arthur Penderbrook III '00.

The movement rose from the student backlash against the administration's new marketing strategy for the school. During the course of this past year's admissions process, a majority of the mailings sent out to prospective students bore the slogan "Wesleyan: The New York Ivy" on them. But after fierce protest by students against the term "Ivy", the official university slogan was changed to "Wesleyan: The New York School."

The administration is also currently considering a proposal to change the name of the institution from "Wesleyan University" to "New York Wesleyan."

"Well, in that case, why don't we

just call ourselves 'New Jersey Wesleyan' then?" whined Lisa Squiza '02. "Because after all, I mean, New Jersey is just nothing more than a New York wannabe, right? And, I mean, that's what we sound like now - a New York school wannabe."

I stopped talking to her after that because I'm from New Jersey and her statement offended me. Besides, she was homely.

"Well, at least I don't live in the

armpit of America!" she yelled as I walked away.

New Jersey is not the "armpit of America."

"We're not going to sit around and let the administration run this university," said McFeelme. "They think they're all big and scary just because they have nifty things like deans' offices and fax machines and tape, but we're not afraid, because we have fliers."

Among the veritable tens of fliers Wesnony has posted around campus in recent weeks, many sport mock-slogans like "Hydrox: The Oreo Not From New York" and "RC: A Poor Imitation for Coke That Tastes Like Dip-Spit, But Is Not Made in New York."

"I don't get how they have the time to put up all these posters, to do all this," commented Dean of Admissions Barbara-Jan Wilson. "I mean, don't they have homework to do or something?! I really feel like all this energy could be put into something more positive, like a class or something... Like, how about dance? I feel like maybe they should take dance."

Dance or no, the question remains as to how the rest of the student population feels regarding the anti-New York campaign.

"I'm really divided on the issue," said Laura Del Fopico '01. "I mean, my mother is from Staten Island, but then again, I hate it there."

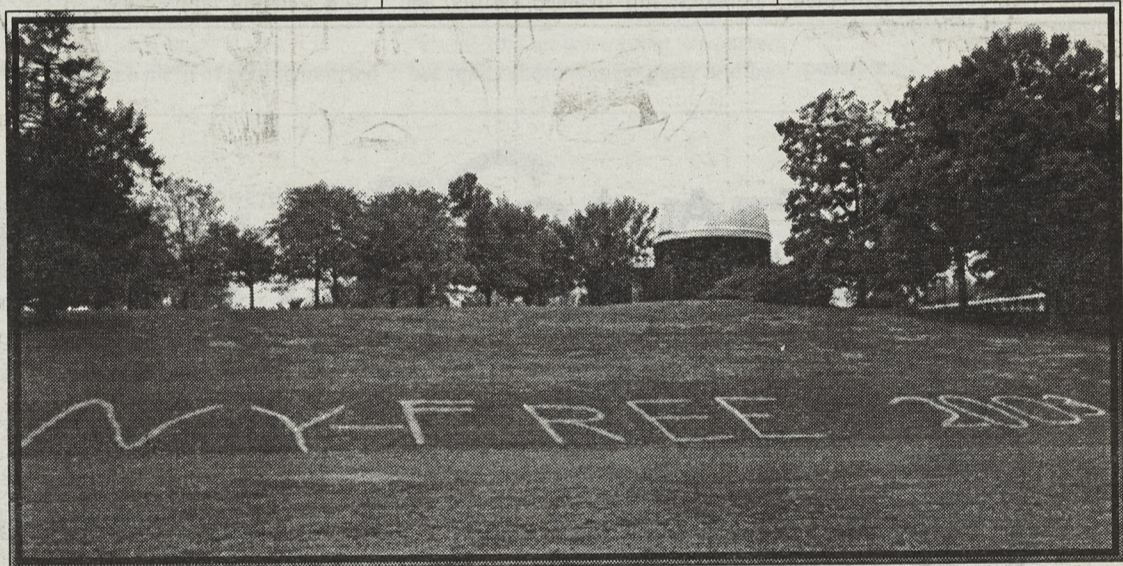
"I'm just worried about whether they can get the paint off before it snows or not," said Steve Tool '00. "Cuz that would suck if we couldn't go sledding. I mean, you know how impossible it is to wash paint out of a carpet."

"I personally really like the whole idea behind the movement, but I'm not so sure how I feel about the message," said Wendy Figg-Newton '99. "For one thing, take a look at the 'F' - it looks like a squashed 'P'. And the '3' is all lopsided, like they ran out of hill by the time they got to it. That to me just shows a lack of planning. Especially when you look again and say, 'Wow, they still really have a lot of hill left. I wonder what happened?!' I really dig the 'N', though."

Unfortunately, however, the administration does not really dig the 'N' (or any of the other letters) and has asked Wesnony to remove them from the hill.

"We won't get rid of the message until the administration gets rid of all New Yorkers on campus," demanded McFeelme.

After careful consideration of the demand, President Bennet issued a formal response on the matter yesterday which read, "Um... that would be kinda hard."



COURTESY LAUGH
New York, Let's Clean Up Foss Hill: ...Sorry, I just realized that joke makes no sense unless you grew up in the NY Metropolitan Area.

Editorial

For all the legitimate concerns that people have about "The Independent Ivy," I think a lot of you out there have to take a step back and look at this situation a little more objectively. I know that the new slogan leaves a lot to be desired, but at the same time it could be so much worse.

What if, just as an example, the university had changed the slogan to "Wesleyan: The Analog Clock to the Digital Clock Ivy League"? I mean, first off that's really wordy. It's got no flow. Secondly, who wants to be an analog clock when you've got digital ones. I mean really, the numbers are right there with digital watches.

And that's just a simple change in slogan, which, when you think about it, is fairly unimportant in the overall scheme of things. What if the admissions department didn't just change their advertising strategy? What if the very function of the admissions department changed? What if, for example, they started killing people instead of admitting them? Sounds unrealistic? Maybe. After all, the University of Virginia's "Admission's-Replaced-By-Killing" scheme hasn't really grabbed hold yet above the Mason-Dixon line.

But either way, you don't have to worry about that, you've already been accepted here, right? Just be glad, then, that you don't go to Haverford. Last week Junior Bill Dawe went to the Haverford health clinic for a routine amputation but ended up, after a horribly botched surgical procedure, having the wrong leg cut off. Poor Mr. Dawe isn't too worried about admission's slogans now. After all, he's wandering around with one too many "independent" right legs, if you know what I mean.

Luke & Aaron's News Briefs

UNIVERSITY BACKS DOWN ON SLOGAN ISSUE

University officials yesterday buckled under the weight of increasing student pressure and changed the official school slogan for the second time in under a year. Intensely negative student reaction to the slogan *Wesleyan: The Independent Ivy* prompted university officials yesterday to announce they were changing the slogan again, this time to *Wesleyan: An Independent Ivy*.

"The student body really responded much more negatively to the whole 'the' part than we had expected," said a flustered Barbara-Jan Wilson, who added that the university had never intended to insult any of the other Independent Ivies.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS GET SARCASTIC

In a split-second outburst at a luncheon for alumni and faculty, President Bennet yesterday revealed his growing frustration with student objections to *The Independent Ivy* slogan.

"If everyone's so damn unhappy with *The Independent Ivy*," declared a discouraged Bennet, "then why don't we just change the slogan. From now on we'll be known only as *Wesleyan: The Stupid School for Ugly Kids*, or *Wesleyan: The Stupid School for Stupid Kids*."

Students responded that those didn't sound like very promising slogans at all and that Bennet's attitude was fairly disappointing.

"I don't think he understands just how hurtful that type of sarcasm can be," said Matthew Hatcher '01.

"Oh cry me a river," responded Bennet, gesturing as if to play the world's smallest violin.

STUDENTS FIND WORDS THAT RHYME WITH 'INDEPENDENT'

Students outside of the campus center yesterday released a pamphlet listing 35 or so words that rhyme with the word "independent" and that could be used in clever puns intended to belittle the new admissions slogan. The list included such words as "codependent," "unrepentant," "incandescent," "effervescent," "altruistic," and "independent."

When students objected to the notion that "independent" rhymes with itself, pamphleteers were quick to explain that this "independent" wasn't pronounced "that way." As of press time no words had been found to rhyme with "ivy."

wespeak continued

A Letter to All Affected by Chalkings and Their Erasure

By JOCELYN GREEN
AND DIANA SILBERGELD

We feel ashamed and deeply sorry. Offending people was the last thing we meant to do. We did not understand the strong affirmations that this chalking

Green and Silbergeld are members of the class of 2002.

had for the gay community. We acted blindly, rashly, and ignorantly. The pain and the anger that we have brought out in people is immense and valid. It was completely unintentional on our part to hurt so many so greatly.

In fact, we thought that by erasing what we thought to be vulgar statements, we were somehow eradicating a certain amount of gay-

bashing that was to be done that day. We erased chalkings because we felt that they didn't represent the gay community at large, and that they insulted and humiliated members of the Wesleyan community, and because they were written on shared property, we felt that the sentiments should be shared as well. But who were we to decide what was representative,

offensive, or what could be shared where?

These messages needed to be said by somebody and it was not our right to take that somebody's voice away. It was not our place to obliterate anyone's opinions. Wesleyan is a place to add to and not subtract from. Yesterday we subtracted.

We realize now that Coming Out Day is one of the few chances to vent otherwise closeted feelings. We were unaware what a powerful recourse chalking is, and how it creates a confidence and pride in a community, even though it might incite anger and confusion in a lot of people. Chalking was a rare opportunity for people to express who they are and create a healthy response at Wesleyan. This response was meant to be shocking, upsetting, and, hopefully, thought-

provoking. We regret taking away from this response.

While we were erasing, many students encouraged and supported us. We implore these students not to judge the chalkings as derogatory graffiti, but as symbols of our diverse campus, and the rights to free speech that we all share. People's willingness to share with us their pain and frustration, as well as the dialogue on Monday night, has made us understand the powerful wrong we did.

The lesson we learned is not worth the pain we caused, but had we the opportunity to return to Monday morning, we would now be more aware, more sensitive, and more educated. Thank you.

We apologize for the damage we caused. We are truly sorry.
Jocelyn and Diana

We Are the Open Minded Ivy

By DANI MIZRACHI

The following is a Wespeak submission relating to harassing remarks made to me on the night of Sunday, October 11 at approximately 1:00 am.

From behind a brick wall you see silhouettes of people. They see your face, your clothes, and know what you're doing. They get brave:

"Suck my dick, faggot!"

"Stop messin' up this campus!"

"I'll kick your ass faggot!"

You ask them for their name. After all, isn't that easier to say than the other stuff? Their response?

"Mike Dick! Suck my dick faggot!"

They lost their guts.

On the night of Sunday, October 11 members of the Queer Alliance went chalking. I won't go through an explanation as to why this was done (for that I refer you to a recent Wespeak by Sarah Jaffe and Patrick Rayner). Instead, I want to talk about the scene described above, what it did to me, and what I feel it indicates about those that made the comments. I won't say where it happened, what window those remarks came from, or the room number. Those are matters relevant to

Mizrachi is a member of the class of 2001.

Offense Was Not Original Intent

continued from page 3

retrospectively, I see why. I erased without leaving an explanation. When people seeing me with a bucket of soapy water, sponges, and brooms asked about what I was doing, I explained, but many students who saw smudged chalking after we had left were led to suspect the worst: that homophobes and bigots were trying to rid the campus of homosexuality. I wouldn't want anyone to think that; it's not the case, and so I should have written something.

I also realized I wish I hadn't erased many things I had. Personal statements people made about themselves and their identity were erased. These were not meant to be taken as generalizations, so I am sorry I erased them. If anyone stereotypes based on someone's personal statements, the person stereotyping must be held accountable, not the writer. Seeing all of the phrases together, I lost the ability to discern one person's words from another, and ended up erasing things based on what someone else had written. This attitude is exactly what I feared other people might experience reading the chalkings. That seems even more likely to me now, recognizing that I experienced it myself.

However, there are still issues that remained unresolved. People argued that I have no right to silence someone else's opinion, and that by erasing chalking that was what I did. People said I should have only added something next to the chalkings instead of erasing. I'm not sure I agree with this. Yes, I believe it is wrong to silence someone's opinion, but I do not see the school paths and roads as the only medium for expressing opinion. These

parties involved and the subsequent Public Safety investigation. What I will discuss is it happening to begin with.

I know why I went chalking. It was to reaffirm my identity as a gay man. It was to stop being apologetic, and to not blindly accept the bombardment of "straight" overtones everywhere. But it was also to make people think. I succeeded in this latter goal. I made myself think — and feel. That is, think and feel about what it means to be gay even in an "open minded" environment. It means being a target of the sort of comments quoted above. It means some straight male friends jumping back slightly when you simply want to give them a hug. It means knowing that you aren't within the "norm." Well, to me, that's a blessing.

Coming out was difficult and confusing, but it was also the most rewarding thing I have ever done. It is part of who I am, how I identify myself, and how I live. Attacks directed at my homosexuality (not mine chalking, mind you) are attacks at who I am. At a part of me that is by no choice of my own, but that I willingly acknowledge. These sort of attacks go right for the emotional jugular; even if you do try an excuse such remarks as the rantings of insecure assholes. It hurts to be slapped by such reality. And I want the people that made those comments to know

that. I want them to know what the ramifications of those expressions are. I want them to know that such harassment is, at best, uncalled for, and, in truth, destructive, threatening, troubling, and demeaning. That is what you did (directed at the harassers). That is a mark of who you are and what you are able and very willing to do to another person you don't even know. How does it feel to know that? You scratch your dick — not because it itches — but because you want "the guys" to see you do it. You grunt for no other reason than to build your machismo to your friends — and for yourself in so doing. And you make fun of those that lack what your conception of machismo is. It lays support, doesn't it? It helps you reaffirm your belief that you are a "man?"

Why did I succeed then? Because I made you think. Or at least, I made you react to my chalking by insulting me. I provoked you. And if you are reading this — then I succeed further still. But you also helped me succeed. You helped me realize why I chalk and what it means to me. You actually made me stronger. But at your own expense. Reevaluate your behavior. Ask yourself why you made those comments and what that says about who you are. You may have some reaffirming and thinking of your own to do.

are shared space that cannot be avoided. By writing offensive and vulgar material on them, you're forcing people to see and experience the material at all times. Though I understand that may have been the point of the chalking, I still don't feel it is an appropriate imposition to make.

I sleep in a dorm room which is at most four feet wide and three feet long. This is my bedroom. The campus is my home. We share this living space, and have to come to agreements on what we feel comfortable hanging on our living room walls. Chalk on the paths we share seem like an erasable medium of expression — these paths cannot be avoided, and they are as much the reader's property as the writer's. I figured that people who wrote in such communal areas would acknowledge that someone who shares this space may not want their writing there, and might erase it. That's why I thought my actions would not offend.

Here's what I can't understand: People tried to offend. They succeeded. They were offended by the attempt to counteract their actions. Then they demanded an apology for being offended without offering one for their own actions. I am truly sorry I offended, regardless of the offensive intentions of the people I offended. In addition, I am not demanding an apology for being offended. It happens; people get offended. I just ask the people who are offended by the erasing to question how different their emotional situation is from mine.

The ability to write and erase on the roads we share is a difficult issue. People have different beliefs regarding this, and act differently accordingly. I recognize that just because we may disagree on this issue, we can still get

along as human beings and strive towards a mutual understanding and negotiation. I hope my fellow Wesleyan students can recognize this as well.

Eggs Make You Think

JULIANA MASTRONUNZIO

OH, thank you, thank you, dear initiator (chicken or human)!

I am so delighted, so thoroughly, thoroughly pleased, with a perfect arrangement of eggs upon the steps of our beloved library, Olin, (slip and fall, drop to your knees!) where we walk up and down with scholarly books, but tonight we had to stop and look! To stop and look! A surprise, a fragile, prophetic surprise... Eggs! In a square on the stairs! For whom, from where? And the students asked, "what does it mean? Did you put these here?" and searched for signs. And searched for signs. One scrutinized a blurb about Columbus Day, which, I'm disturbed to say, would blend into the rest if not for this brilliant test! Be bold, friends, behold: A whole network comprised of surprise, interrupting familiar brick and concrete assemblages with color and shape and a mischievous wink, to make us think! To make us think!

Mastronunzio is a member of the class of 2001.

Independent Ivy: I Don't Care

By KATIE SANDERSON

When I saw the first "I do not attend the Independent Ivy" sticker on some poor fool's backpack, I felt an uncontrollable urge to write a Wespeak about the absurdity of the newest protest on campus. Seeing the huge poster in the campus center made me want to express my opposing view even more. But I never got around to it. So when I read John Zorabedian's Wespeak on October 6, I was inspired to let John know that he is not alone in this mob of pointless protesters.

As many of us are aware, Wesleyan is one of "The Little Three" with Amherst and Williams. The motto, "The Little Three," actually refers to "The Little Three IVY LEAGUE." There is a history involved here. The slogan refers to

Sanderson is a member of the class of 2000.

prestige and reputation. Superficial? Maybe... maybe not. Where does prestige come from? Wesleyan University has prestige because it is, and always has been, an institution of academic excellence. Most of us probably started to look at Wesleyan because of that reputation. We all chose to attend this school. So if some of us are so strongly protesting a slogan that is actually relevant to the history of our school, then maybe they should have thought twice before coming here in the first place.

Yes, it is a stupid slogan. So can't we just leave it at that? The protest against all of this is even more foolish than the slogan itself. This whole mobilization, with its little posters and stickers, is a waste of time, energy, and paper. I'm even wasting my time writing about how pointless this whole thing is.

So after all this talk, there is still one question. Is Wesleyan the Independent Ivy? I don't care.

WESLEYAN STUDENTS:

10%
OFF EVERYTHING ON
WEEKENDS WITH
WESLEYAN I.D.*

WESLEYAN **W**EEKENDS
AT
PELTON'S DRUG STORE

PELTON'S DRUG STORE
100 MAIN STREET
346-8603

*R.X'S AND TOBACCO EXCLUDED

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/argus>