

Students and Faculty Plagued By Elevator Troubles



degenerative Joyrenzia Cheatham

Sophomore Kai Lee and Junior Gail Trotter wait for the elevator doors to close. They never did.

Evan Le'Mon
The Whetstone

Professor Susan Bobby was forced for the first two months last semester to climb the College Center stairs to her classroom on the second floor and to her office on the fourth floor because of the unreliability of the elevator.

"I had surgery for my

joint disease a year ago and was improving a lot," she said.

"But by the second or third week of the semester, the elevator was breaking every day multiple times a day."

Bobby said that within a month she was in constant pain. Two doctors wrote letters to Wesley asking she be given a different location

for her classes and office.

"I tried to at least keep my classes on the second floor of the College Center," she said.

"After a week I had been late to class and my office hours three days in a row because the elevator kept breaking down. At that point I had to move my classes to the second floor of the library as well."

Bobby's story is one of several that have resulted from spotty elevator service in College Center.

Sophomore Lydia LaSure said she was taking the College Center elevator to class one day when she said the elevator doors opened and the car stopped before it had come all the way down to the first floor.

"I had to hop up into it," she said. "I was terrified because it bounced when I got in, but I had to suck it up. I had a class on the fourth floor and I had to get there."

Senior Ashley Morris said that the elevator doors need better sensors.

"The doors will open,

and then slam closed before I have a chance to step on," she said.

"It'll happen two or three times before they stay open long enough for me to finally get on. It's scary – I have to try not to get crushed by the doors."

Bobby said she wasn't the only one complaining of health issues related to having to take the stairs.

"I've heard a lot of faculty, staff and students complain of stress on their knees," she said.

"We'll have students who are injured who aren't supposed to be on stairs but do it anyway. If a student's class is in the CC and the elevator's broken, what else are they supposed to do?"

Junior Briana Artis said it frustrates her when the elevator doesn't work during class hours.

"Not everyone can take the stairs – there's students who are disabled," she said. be able to do that.

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The Wesley Shuttle Shuffles to New Stop

By Joyrenzia Cheatham
Editor-In-Chief
The Whetstone

If you thought the shuttle bus could not get any better, you might want to think again.

The shuttle added a new stop to the Dover Towne Center, which includes Ross, Ulta Beauty, Shoe Carnival and Outback Steakhouse.

"We added the stop at the request of a student," SGA President Betty Lee said.

"We took the idea to congress and they approved it."

The shuttle has already been a success this semester.

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Campus Crime Reportedly Decreases



Head of Security Walter Beaupre

Christian Bailey

By Christian Bailey
The Whetstone

Junior Najee Segar thinks the reported decrease in campus crime has a lot to do with the fact that nothing really happens on campus for students to get into trouble.

"Campus is more boring, fewer students are participating, which, of course, would decrease the statistics of inappropriate behavior on campus," she said.

Campus Security created a 5-year incident report to the campus, which covered only the months from Aug. 15-Nov. 15, from 2012-2017.

According to the report, campus crime has decreased more than 40 percent in the past three years.

Head of Security Walter Beaupre said the information was requested after President Clark

remarked that he would like to know if campus crime was increasing or decreasing during the first few months of the school years.

Some students said they attribute the drastic decrease in crime statistics the lack of participation among the student body, strict policies enforced by security, and students knowing ways to do crimes but not get caught.

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Campus Crime Reportedly Decreases

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With a total of 289 incidents, 2015 was the peak of campus crimes. These incidents included failure to comply/disorderly conduct, alcohol violations, drug use, assault, noise complaints, burglary/ theft, trespassing/suspicious person/suspicious activity, vandalism/criminal activity, guest misconduct/ violation, shots fired, and a category labeled other with included crimes such as mail tampering and vehicle accidents. As of Nov. 2017, the total crimes decreased to 148, nearly half. "The decrease of crime is due to Wesley's strict policies," junior Kenya Gorham said.

"Students know if they break the rules it is a large change that they can kicked out." Gorham said she also noticed a change in atmosphere on campus since her start in the fall of 2015. "In my opinion, school isn't as fun as it used to be, which can also be a reason why the crime rate has decreased," she said. "People aren't doing dumb stuff to get kicked out like they were when I was a freshman." Beaupre said he also has noticed a change in atmosphere, probably caused by the different kind of students Wesley has recruited.

"I think we are recruiting students who are a better fit for Wesley," he said. Junior Ny'Jah Wilcox, however, agreed with Gorham's explanation. "The atmosphere is different, nobody interacts, nobody participates, orgs are lacking, it's just weird now," she said. Senior Katherine Nettles came to Wesley in 2012, and said she has seen the best and worst of Wesley. "A lot of people have left, people have jobs, people aren't just sitting around doing dumb stuff to get in trouble," she said. She said she believes some students who came to school in got with the wrong crowds of people.

Some students said they also believed campus security guards have played a part in the decrease of crime. "They check IDs, which is annoying, but I guess it's good for our safety," senior Zakari Hilaire said. "Security has decreased access to outside students, they are not allowed to come to any of our events," Segar said. Beaupre said the restriction on outside guest has been the same. "I don't think we're being more strict," he said. "The policy always has been and enforced that outside guests to the college must be escorted while on campus."

Some students think that security does not do a good job creating a safe environment. "I don't always feel safe," Wilcox said. "I've seen security display negligent behavior." Students said they have learned security's tactics and they know how to avoid getting in trouble. "Students are smart, they're outsmarting security," Nettles said. "It's a lot of people from the hood, he said. "They move a certain kind of way, it's no snitching!" "A lot of stuff still happens but people don't tell or report it so it is not included in the stats," Hilaire said.

Wesley College Incidents Aug. 15 - Nov. 15

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Failure to Comply/Disorderly Conduct	46	36	24	34	47	18
Alcohol Violation	59	45	16	72	29	15
Drugs	16	17	8	24	15	22
Assault*	7	28	15	25	37	24
Noise	25	34	35	32	32	8
Burglary/Theft	19	16	16	16	14	11
Tres/Susp Person/Activity	17	26	35	31	30	28
Vandalism/Criminal Activity	13	6	6	23	8	8
Guest Misconduct/Violation	0	4	14	9	12	0
Shots Fired	0	0	3	3	0	0
Other **	11	10	5	20	12	14
Total Incidents	213	212	177	289	236	148

*Includes: Assault, Verbal Altercation, Fighting, Harassment, Offensive Touching, Reported Sexual Assault and Communicating a Threat

**Includes: Mail Tampering, Vehicle Accident, Operating a Business without a License, False Reporting, Smoking, Weapons Violation, Missing Student, Loitering, Unauthorized Router, Endangered Minor

Students and Faculty Plagued By Elevator Troubles

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"If the elevator is something that we need, it should be available for us to use. Wesley needs to invest the money for us to Otherwise, why do we have it at all?" Wesley's Chief Financial Officer Belinda Burke said that both Maintenance and her office are aware of the concerns.

"We have already made numerous repairs to the elevator," she said. "The major and costly repairs for replacing the mechanical parts of the elevator takes an extended period of time – two to four weeks when the elevator will need to be out of service." Burke said that

the repairs are being scheduled for the summer, "when fewer people will be interrupted and inconvenienced." Bobby said that repairs may not be enough. "I want to see the college replace the elevator, not repair it," she said. "I have worked here for 25 years, and I can recall

at least 15 years ago people saying it needed to be replaced." "In fact, I was recently talking to an alumni who graduated 15 years ago and she was reminiscing about helping an older English professor up and down the stairs when the elevator was broken. My office on the fourth floor was his old

office." Burke said that the repairs that will take place this summer will be sufficient to "remedy the issues and make the elevator operational. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work through these issues."

The Wesley Shuttle Shuffles to New Stop

Continued from P1



Ariel Checa looks through clothes at Ross



Angela Guild drives to the next location

Forty-four students rode the shuttle on Saturday, Jan. 27," Lee said. "It was the most successful day yet." Lee also noted in the SGA meeting on Jan. 22 that about 200 students used the shuttle last semester. Freshman Ariel Checa visited the new stop the first day it ran. "I feel like it is better that we have new stops and more choices," she said. "Ultra is one of my favorite stores so I am excited to go." The Wesley shuttle runs on Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m., and on Saturdays from 12-5 p.m. The Shuttle picks up students from Lot A to drive students to the five locations, Target/Safeway, the Dover Mall, the Dover Towne Center and Wal-Mart.

Alissa Rinchere said she enjoys the shuttle and the new stop. "It's great and I like it a lot," she said. "I wish I had used it more last semester." It also doesn't cost students a thing – almost. Student fees cover the cost of the shuttle. The SGA said it saved students \$6,000 this year. "Last year, they used a coach bus service that cost SGA over \$8,000," SGA President Betty Lee said. "This year, we found shuttle drivers to drive the Wesley vans, which will only cost a little over \$2,000." "It is very helpful because it is free," Rinchere said. "I do not have to use or pay for an Uber ride."

Not only do students enjoy the shuttle, but shuttle driver Angela Guild enjoys it, too. "All of the kids are respectful and nice," she said. "I have had no issues with students so far so that is good." Guild said the additional stop is not a big deal. "It is the same because the new stop is in the route," she said. "I am sure students don't like it when you have to ride past Five Below on the way to Wal-Mart but it is just apart of the route." When a student takes the shuttle, students must tell the driver what time they would like to be picked up. If students have any questions about the shuttle, they can email SGA President Betty Lee at betty.lee@email.wesley.edu.

Meet the Staff

Interested in joining The Whetstone's staff? We are always looking for new writers and photographers to help report campus news to the student body. If you have any questions or comments, email the editor-in-chief.

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RA's and Residents Concur and Dissent

By Zahra Marcus
The Whetstone

Good relationships are all about communication.

Some Wesley RAs and their residents say they don't have either good relationships or communication.

"I want the RAs to be role models, both in and out of the classrooms." Christopher Willis, head of residential life, said.

"Although nobody is perfect, I hope the RAs are people with integrity and willing to do what's right when needed. They should be available, providing interactive opportunities for their residents and community."

Malmberg Area Coordinator Albert Papazoni instructed wanna-be RAs toward the end of last month at a meeting that the position requires strong communication skills and presence.

But when it comes to showing these skills in their buildings, some residents say they come up short.

"The RAs for the most part in Malmberg Hall don't really care about their jobs," sophomore London Young said. "If you call them for any issues they have attitudes and take their time on assisting you with your problem."

Gabrielle Johnson, an RA in Malmberg Hall, said the problems come from elsewhere.

"I wish my residents were more involved with programs that RA's hold and not to be afraid to speak to us or to simply just say hi," she said.

Simone Brown, a freshman in Gooding Hall, likes her RA.

"I like Sasha Wise as an RA," she said.

"She is very cool. Sometimes we have conversations. I hope this semester that she continued to be kind. And Christiana's always around in the dorm with her door open."

Two RAs said they believe their residents were not willing to associate themselves with them or any activities they planned for their buildings.

"I would like to help show them what Wesley offers, such as many more opportunities they can achieve from here," Autumn Brown, an RA in William Hall, said.

"I want to let them know I am here to help them and I am always available."

A recent graduate, Even Le'Mon, a former RA in Carpenter Hall, said he had a great relationship with his residents.

"For the most part they really liked and respected me, they felt comfortable coming to me



Christopher Willis (top) London Young (bottom)

Zahra Marcus

when they had problems, and a couple of them even gave me appreciation gifts before I left," he said.

"I even still keep in touch with a few of them to see how they are doing and talk to them about life after college."

Think There Is Nothing To Do On Campus? Think Again

By Kierra Whitaker
The Whetstone

The Student Activities Board (SAB) reports it has an eventful semester planned.

The student organization holds the majority of events on campus.

"We will be taking trips to D.C. in February and New York City in March," Jeanerre Smith, SAB president, said.

"We want to take students to places they may have not experienced before."

Some of the planned events include Wesley Wildin', a comedy improve game that proved very successful last spring, along with other events such as movie nights and arts and crafts.

"The events are very creative," junior Tariah Edmonds said.

"They listen to the ideas of

what the student body says."

"I always love to support SAB's events," sophomore Edward Major said.

"The events that they have are not boring."

Kabrea Tyler, SAB vice president, said she was excited for what's happening in March.

"March is Women's History Month," she said.

"We get to celebrate some phenomenal women in history and also students can come out to make dream boards."

A dream board shows one's future goals and inspirations through images.

The organization printed and distributed a calendar of events not only sponsored by SAB but also events by the Office of

Campus Life and Alcohol and Other Drugs Education.

Mark Berry, director of Campus Life and SAB adviser, said he has positive hopes for all of the events.

"Pop out," Berry said. "Wesley is what you make it."

"If everyone markets the events the correct way and gives feedback the event turnout will be awesome."

Berry said he has attended every event that SAB sponsored this semester and expects to be at more.

"There is some type of knowledge students can gain for coming out to these events some way, somehow, he said.

"Each event is full of substance."

Former SAB President Corey

Edmonds said he thinks the events are making progress.

"(The adviser) has changed since I was president about a year ago," he said.

"So things may be a bit different," he said.

The biggest event most students are waiting for is Homecoming Reloaded.

"I'm ready to see what they have in store this semester" senior Maya Shuler said.

"The previous Homecoming in the fall was cool," she said.

We actually had a party," Homecoming Reloaded will be during the second week of April.

Events are still being decided by the executive board.

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH! Black History Month remains an important moment for America to celebrate the achievements and contributions Black Americans have played in U.S. history. Arising out of "Negro History Week," which first began in the 1920s, February has since been designated as Black History Month by every U.S. president since 1976.						
Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) Inspired generations of proud, black Southern artists!	NBA 2K18 Video Game Tournament 7:00pm - 12:00am The Underground	Wesley Wildin' 7:00pm - 9:00pm Wells Theatre	Movie Night: Django 7:00pm - 9:00pm Wells Theatre	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM SPRING I CLASSES WITH A GRADE OF 'W'		
BLACK LIVES MATTER	Speed Dating 8:00pm - 11:00pm CC Lobby	Trivia Night 7:00pm - 10:00pm Wells Theatre	Alvin Ailey (1911-1989) Founder of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater			
Charles Drew (1904-1950) A noted physician and medical researcher, founder of blood banks.	Black Card 7:00pm - 10:00pm CC Lobby	Li Leadership Lecture Series - Ethical/Cultural Diversity 7:30pm - 8:30pm MA 113	Fiscal Friday 2:00pm - 3:30pm CC Lobby	DC Bus Trip 10:00am - 6:00pm Washington, DC		
	Spades Tournament 7:00pm - 12:00am The Underground	Dang/Bonnet Day 7:30pm - 9:30pm MA 113	Follow the Student Affairs Office on Social Media TODAY!			

Kierra Whitaker

Student Activities Board calendar for Feb. 2018 and Mar. 2018

March 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
IT'S WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH! It is time to pay homage to the women who have affected America in the most positive of ways!						
Follow the Student Affairs Office on Social Media TODAY!						
Movie Night: The Help 7:00pm - 9:30pm Wells Theatre	Movie Night: Coco Chanel (1883-1971) Famous French Fashion Designer					
SPRING BREAK!						
Billie Holiday (1915-1959) American jazz singer, given the title "The First Lady of Blues"						

Kierra Whitaker

Malmberg Gym Gets Modified Hours – For Some

By Joyrenzia Cheatham
Editor-In-Chief
The Whetstone

The Malmberg Gym now has additional hours – but there is a catch.

The gym's regular hours – Sunday to Friday 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. when a desk attendant is there – have been increased to from 6 a.m.-midnight, but only if the student signs a waiver that he or she will be using the gym without supervision.

Students may sign the waiver form in the SGA office during office hours.

The form goes to security, which will take about a week to approve or deny.

If the student is approved, he or she may access the gym the same way one might a dorm room – just swipe your ID card across the sensor.

The new hours will allow freshman Kwasiatiriah Jones to make time in her schedule to work out.

"I can finish my classes and then work out," she said. "If it were open past midnight, I would use it even more, but I do plan on using it more thanks to the new hours."

Freshman Rocher Hopkins said the waiver hours fit in her schedule as well.

"I have more time to do homework, work out and eat," she said.

"It fits within my schedule and I know the hours so I can come in, do my workout and leave before other people come in."

Student workers who operate the gym still be there during normal hours.

"We are still responsible for being here and doing our jobs," Stephanie Dobyns said.

"SGA does not hire the student workers," SGA treasurer Austin Pendergast said. "Student Affairs hires them."

Student workers at the gym are responsible for opening and closing the gym.

They are also responsible for checking student IDs and making sure the machines are clean.

Students who have been approved for the waiver hours can be in the gym when a student worker is not there.

They cannot, however, use free weights.

For students who want a waiver, SGA office hours are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Monday, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday.

The SGA requests that students wipe down the machines after they use them.



Rocher Hopkins working out (top) Kwasiatiriah Jones on the treadmill (bottom)



Joyrenzia Cheatham

Sports

Wesley Football Players Debate Taking A Knee

By Joyrenzia Cheatham
Editor-In-Chief
The Whetstone

Wesley College's football players have talked about the controversy surrounding the 2017 NFL season – many black players taking a knee during the playing of the National Anthem.

No Wesley Wolverine has taken a knee this year.

Former Wesley football player Robert Wiggs said he thinks there would be consequences if Wesley players took a knee.

"If (Athletic Director and Head Coach) Drass saw anyone taking a knee, I believe he would get pressure from fans and boosters to discipline that player," he said. "As the athletic director, it would make him look bad overall."

Team captain Blake Roberts said he doesn't think it would be a smart choice.

"I feel as if our coaches would not want that," he said.

Cornerback Dajahn Lowery said that the coaches have not talked to players about it.

"If someone were to bring it up or kneel during the anthem, I do not think (Drass) would address it right away," he said. "He would probably talk to them later about it or as a team before or after practice."

Drass said no one on the team has asked him about it.

"Players can make their own decisions," he said. "We have been in the locker room for half of the National Anthems, which is just how it worked out. I have not seen any NFL games. I am here at Wesley working."

Wesley players have remained standing on the sidelines during the National Anthem.

and, at least at all of their home games, have not been in the locker room.

Lowery said players have talked about doing it.

"There are people on the team who talked about doing it but did not act on it," he said. "I feel that we would need to have a serious conversation about it before doing it."

Wide Receiver James Okike also said players talked about it.

"A few of us have talked about it just to see people's opinion," he said.

Roberts said he would not take a knee.

"I think there is a time and a place for everything and I am a part of a football team to play football," he said. "We are all there for one goal and that is to win a national championship. As a D3 school and Wesley College, we should not get involved in those types of things."

Lowery said he also would not take a knee.

"I honestly do not think Drass would care, but it would cause a commotion with the alumni," he said.

Defensive End Vincent Ebron said he believes the NFL protests are not disrespectful.

"I believe the protests are peaceful and that if we do not agree with the laws and system that we follow we should make a stand," he said. "It is a First Amendment right, such as burning a flag in Texas v. Johnson"

Okike said taking a knee is a First Amendment right.

"It is their right as Americans to show their



Joyrenzia Cheatham
Mike Sabino (58) waves the American flag, James Okike (11) waves the Wolverine flag, and Dajahn Lowery (1) slams the hammer

freedom of speech," he said.

"It is not harming anyone it is just showing what you stand for."

Student Alexis Waugh said it was a matter of principle.

"People are saying that they are disrespecting the flag and soldiers that served and died when that is not the reason they are kneeling. People who are veterans understand and agree with the players that are kneeling because they know that they are kneeling for equality in America and not to disrespect them."

- Dajahn Lowery

Joyrenzia Cheatham



"I think that it is good that the players are making a stand for something they believe in," she said.

Cheerleader Autumn Brown said NFL players are doing what they feel is right.

"They believe that society needs a change and they are trying to bring light to a serious problem in America," she said.

Student Sydney Brokenborough said the protests are being taken out of context.

"It is not disrespectful to the flag or veterans because it has nothing to do with them," she said.

Lowery said that people were missing the message.

"People are saying that they are disrespecting the flag and soldiers that served and died when that is not the reason they are kneeling," he said.

"People who are veterans understand and agree with the players that are kneeling because they know that they are kneeling for equality in America and not to disrespect them."

Student Zahra Marcus said she does not think there is a problem with the protests.

"There is meaning behind it," she said.

"They feel t

hat there is injustice between African-Americans and the legal system. Everyone points out what is wrong with it but if they focused on fixing what they are protesting, there would not be a reason for them to protest."

Taking a knee during the National Anthem began when Quarterback Colin Kaepernick did it while playing for the San Francisco 49ers in 2016.

He is not playing now and is suing the NFL for collusion, because he believes he has been blackballed by the league.

During the 2017 season, players from the Baltimore Ravens, Jacksonville Jaguars, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New England Patriots, Denver Broncos, Indianapolis Colts, Atlanta Falcons, Cleveland Browns, Miami Dolphins, New Orleans Saints, Kansas City Chiefs, Oakland Raiders and Buffalo Bills have taken a knee, sat, raised fists or locked arms during the anthem.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, Seattle Seahawks and Tennessee Titans opted to stay in the locker room during the anthem. Tensions got thicker when President Donald Trump said that players should be fired for "disrespecting the anthem," causing more players to protest.

The Super Bowl was played on Feb. 4. The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the New England Patriots 41-33.

No player took a knee at the Super Bowl.

Opinion

Wesley Doesn't Get How Journalism Works

Evan Le'Mon
The Whetstone

As I reflect back on my time here at Wesley, some of my fondest memories are with The Whetstone.

Whether it was the feeling of, "This is going to be good," during an interview, or the rush of finishing a heavy-hitting story, the work I did for the school paper definitely changed me for the better as a person and as a writer.

However, while the work I did for The Whetstone was some of my most rewarding, it was also some of my most frustrating.

There were a lot of reasons for that frustration, but the brunt of it boils down to one sentence – people at this school don't understand journalism.

The first thing I think people need to understand is that not everything is news.

I don't know how many times people have come up

to me asking me to write a "good story" about their organization, or an event that they had coming up.

This part didn't bother me too much – being involved in several other big organizations on campus, I was used to taking requests.

The Whetstone is different, though. We are not running a PR firm.

Our job isn't to make Wesley or any person or organization associated with the college look good.

Our job is to write fair, balanced articles, not "fluff pieces."

We're here to cover the important issues on campus, whether the parties involved in said issues want us to or not.

That leads me to my biggest headache when it comes to writing for The Whetstone – people refusing to be interviewed.

Picture this: you've got a great story that you're ready to submit. All you need is one last person's

perspective to tie the whole thing together. But when you ask to interview them, they either don't respond to your attempts to reach out or flat out tell you, "No."

I want to address both sides of the coin.

To the people who are scared to go on record: none of your complaints about Wesley will ever change if no one is willing to talk about them.

Whatever your problem is, I can guarantee you that you're not alone.

Once you use your voice, more people will have the courage to use theirs until the cry for change is so loud it can't be ignored.

That's how things get done.

Now, to the people who don't want what they did in the dark to come to the light – the jig will be up eventually.

It's inevitable.

If The Whetstone is covering what happened,



Evan Le'Mon

chances are it already is. Our purpose in trying to interview you isn't to attack you, it's to give you a chance to tell your side of the story.

Our goal is always to be fair, but not every story we right can be "positive."

If something negative happens that's newsworthy, it's our duty to shine a light on it.

If you don't want to be highlighted in a negative light, the only advice I can give you is not to give us a reason to.

There's nothing wrong with covering or highlighting positive things on campus, and

we do. But if we didn't cover the more controversial, commonly seen as "negative" topics, who else would?

How else would students find out what's really going on at the school?

Part of our responsibility as journalists is to hold people accountable for their actions by putting the spotlight on them.

That's something we at The Whetstone take very seriously, and something I plan to continue to take seriously as I pursue a career in this field.

Take A Knee

Evan Le'Mon
The Whetstone

I haven't stood for the national anthem or the pledge of allegiance since my senior year of high school.

I'd always felt a certain level of discomfort when it came to these things.

Participating in them almost felt like I was pledging my life to America in a sense.

Once I started to learn more about our history in this country and our relationship with white supremacy as Black people, I felt it was almost my duty not to stand.

Why pledge my life stand for a country that won't fight for my basic human rights?

Why stand and play along with the notion that America is such a great and noble nation, when that nobility isn't extended toward my people?

When anyone

questioned my choice not to participate, these are the questions I'd ask in return.

The social climate wasn't nearly as tense as it is now, but they still sparked a few classroom discussions.

When Colin Kaepernick started kneeling during the anthem at NFL games I was all for it.

He and other NFL players were kneeling for basically the same reason I sat: to protest white supremacy, especially in the form of police brutality.

I thought it was a great way to get those classroom discussions, but on a much larger scale.

Of course there was, and still is, pushback from people who refuse to see it as anything other than disrespect to veterans despite its true purpose being explained over and over again.

The mental gymnastics involved in upholding white supremacy never cease to amaze me.

However, I thought, "This is nothing we haven't seen before. We can push through and have this conversation anyway."

There is one aspect of this matter that has both warmed my heart and troubled my spirit. Following Kaepernick's example, several student athletes across the country have begun to take a knee at their games – I've even seen referees do it.

I think that's a great way to keep the issue fresh in people's minds, especially after the blackballing of Kaepernick by the NFL.

However, I've seen several stories about these students losing play time, getting benched, and being ostracized by teammates after taking a knee.

Even more so than Kaepernick's, these stories have troubled me.

Is this nation so blindly "patriotic" that they're willing to gag any voice of

perceived dissent, possibly crushing young spirits in the process?

That's a rhetorical question. I think we all know the answer.

I hope that Wesley College isn't in that vein of thinking. I know several student athletes at this school who have similar views to mine when it comes to the issue of the anthem, and social issues in general.

But I have yet to see one athlete kneel at a game.

Why is that? Are they scared of retaliation from coaches? Their white teammates? Or are they just not as passionate about these issues as they claim to be? I don't know.

When I ran track for Wesley I never stood for the anthem, but injuries ended my career before this became a hot topic.

Sometimes I wonder what reception I would get if I still ran today and I didn't stand. I wonder what

would happen if a member of the football team, Wesley's crown jewel, didn't stand.

I was an intern for the Sports Information Department this semester, so I sat in the press box during all the football games.

I never stood for the anthem, and I never had any problems.

However, during the Homecoming game I noticed something different.

For one, there were more people in the press box that day, most of them old and white.

After I didn't stand, I noticed that none of them would look me in the eye.

I even spoke to the lady next to me a couple of times, and she completely ignored me.

I can't help but wonder if our interactions might've been different had I stood.

Crime Log

Date Reported	Date Occurred	Nature of Crime/Classification	General Location	Disposition
1/12/18 0958	Unknown	Suspicious Activity	Budd Hall	Opened
1/15/18 2245	1/15/18	Suspected Vandalism	Zimmerman Hall	Closed (Negative Findings)
1/16/18 0935	Unknown	Theft	Zimmerman Garage	Opened
1/16/18 1500	Unknown	Vandalism/Theft	Zimmerman Hall	Opened
1/17/18 1600	1/17/18 1600	Possible Threat	Off Campus	Opened (DPD Notified)
1/19/18 2354	1/19/18 2354	Alcohol Violation (Underage)	Carpenter Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
1/20/18 0027	1/20/18 0027	Guest Misconduct/Alcohol Violation (Underage)	Carpenter Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
1/24/18 0005	1/24/18 0005	Disruptive Behavior	Zimmerman Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
1/28/18 1706	Between 1/27/18 1300 - 1/28/18 1630	Theft	Front of Carpenter Hall	Opened
1/31/18 1643	1/31/18 1300	Vandalism/Criminal Damage	Parking Lot A	Opened (Reported to DPD)
2/1/18 1917	2/1/18 1917	Harassment	Dulany Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
2/2/18 0324	2/2/18 0324	Suspicious Activity	Parking Lot A	Closed (Escorted Off Campus)
2/2/18 1534	2/2/18 1534	Disorderly Conduct/Disruptive Behavior	Underground	Closed
2/2/18 1615	2/2/18 1615	Suspicious Activity	Longwood Hall	Closed (Left Campus)
2/4/18 1739	2/4/18 1739	Suspicious Noise	Exterior of Roe Hall	Closed (Negative Findings)
2/6/18 1815	2/6/18 1815	Physical Altercation	Malmberg Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
2/8/18 1235	2/8/18 1235	Harassment/Communicating a Threat	College Center	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
2/11/18 0239	2/11/18 0239	Guest Misconduct/Failure to Comply	Carpenter Hall	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
2/11/18 1305	2/11/18 1305	Harassment	Various	Closed (Referred for Disciplinary)
2/11/18 1832	2/11/18 1832	Vandalism	Wesley West	Opened