

The Decree

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Some students should grow up

Poor student attendance at the "Something for Everyone" dinner theater on Tuesday raises questions about why students act in the way they do.

Students often say there is nothing to do, but when there is an event on campus such as the dinner theater, the students do not wish to attend. Even though the Student Activity Center was filled to capacity, the seats were mostly occupied by staff, faculty, and other members of the Rocky Mount community. Although some students were present, they were there because of LSS class and acted as though they really wanted to be somewhere else.

Their behavior was itself unfortunate. LSS professors are trying to get a point across to students, but many people find it quite annoying that

these rude and disrespectful students ruin evenings of fun and enjoyment for everyone else. There has to be a way in which misbehaving students can control their words and actions so that students and others who want to enjoy the activities may do so.

We applaud the efforts and success of Dr. Maria Manzo and the entire cast of students responsible for such an energetic and talented show. The students who want to enjoy themselves and be entertained were not disappointed.

To the rest of the student population who believe "there is never anything to do" and also to the students who left early, you need to realize you're in college, not a playground. Grow up and be responsible for your actions. The students that say there is "nothing to do" are the students who do nothing!

Student misbehavior offensive

Dear Editor:

I have enjoyed the Visiting Writers Series offered by NCWC this semester. There is only one thing that has disappointed me about these events.

The requirement that the LSS classes must attend at least three of these events has had serious implications on those of us who want to attend and learn from these readings.

I understand that requiring the students to attend these events is

to spark their interest in something they may never have had access to. But most of these students disrupt others by talking, playing around, etc. Not only is this disrespectful to the speakers, but also to others who want to



Contrast in men startling

Big gap divides Magic, Duke

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

To those who have been working for and with people with AIDS, the attention suddenly given to a basketball player who can afford health insurance and who has a phenomenal support system may have seemed excessive and even misplaced.

But Magic Johnson was immediately important. At his press conference, he said what he had; he offered no defensive protestation of his heterosexuality; and he did not pretend that he is a more important sufferer than any other.

AIDS is not like any other disease. Because AIDS is unequivocally deadly and because homosexuals and IV-drug users and prostitutes and black and Hispanics are the primary groups, other people have tried to ignore it.

listen.

Not everything can be MTV or Saturday morning cartoons, but these speakers can enlighten each one of us. These writers have left their marks on our society by being published; they deserve your respect.

It's not difficult to sit still and remain quiet. Maybe you would enjoy these lectures if you'd open up your minds and close your mouths.

Charlotte Layton

Dr. Steve Muses

Several years ago, I told a local school official about the necessity of teaching children about AIDS. He laughed because he didn't believe any local children would be infected, and he didn't believe the community would stand for any explicit sex talk. What if we had started ten, even five years ago? That's what I hope many of us are asking ourselves today.

I am sorry that we needed to know that "anyone" could get AIDS before we realized the need for education and prevention, but I hope Johnson helps us understand that we have a responsibility to do what we can for sick people, that we should educate ourselves about how to avoid disease. Johnson says that AIDS knows no "us" and "them."

While Johnson gives us hope that we may defeat one ignorance, David Duke shows us that another disease festers, a disease that is not far removed from the one which made so many of us not care about gay, poor, drug-addicted people with AIDS.

Duke appeals to those white people who think that their position of power and their economic security are being eroded by programs such as affirmative action and welfare. Duke's popularity

within and without Louisiana proves that both political parties better figure out how to address these issues. The country can avoid neither the ignorance Johnson wants to alleviate nor the fear Duke wants to exploit.

As he conceded to Edwards, Duke said to a group of his supporters that the nation is waking up to the need for a return to the majority. He says that the best qualified people should get jobs, that no preferences should be considered.

What he really means is that white men should set the rules for what makes people qualified and should keep a close loop — make sure that the system ensures that only white men qualify and that white employers hire only those who qualify. Keep "them" out there where they belong.

If we can rally around a basketball player who happens to be black and happens to have been exposed to a virus, then surely we can reject an ex-Nazi sympathizer/KKK dragoon with a slick re-made face.

That Johnson wants to spend his time educating us all about his disease illustrates a remarkable inner strength. That David Duke wants to spend his time demanding a return to what he thinks were the good old days of white man majority rule is also a tribute to his convictions. But one man leads towards compassion, hope, and unity, while the other preaches prejudice, fear, and division.